The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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YEAR IN REVIEW

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MAKING HEADLINES IN 2007

































































WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
December 29



Dogs' day

Didn't get what you wanted for Christmas? If you had your eyes peeled for a gift box with air holes punched into it but were left with your tail between your legs, head over to 4 and a Tail in Park Slope for the arrival of the Brooklyn Animal Foster Network's mobile pet adoption unit.

Noon at 4 and a Tail (240 Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope). Free. For information, call (718) 798-6865 or visit www.brooklynanimalfosternetwork.org.

MONDAY
December 31

New Year's Eve excess

Every bar in the borough — and most of the people — will be doing something special to celebrate New Year's Eve. Turn to page 7 to check out GO Brooklyn's guide to the biggest and most exciting parties of the night, as well as more subdued, but equally satisfying, dining options.



TUESDAY
January 1



Grin & bear it

All winter long most people are dreaming of a dip into a hot tub, not a swim in the freezing cold ocean. The Coney Island Polar Bears are not most people. These sub-zero heroes are dipping into the frigid Atlantic to raise money for Camp Sunshine, a kids charity.

1 pm at the Coney Island Boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue. Donations encouraged. For information, call (718) 356-7741 or visit www.polarbearclub.org.

WEDNESDAY
January 2

Ticket time

Trekkies and civilians alike will be beaming themselves up to the Brooklyn Academy of Music's box office today to purchase tickets for the upcoming production of "Macbeth" starring Patrick Stewart (aka Capt. Picard on "Star Trek: The Next Generation").

Noon to 6 pm at the Brooklyn Academy of Music box office (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are $30-90 and can be purchased by calling (718) 636-4100 or visiting www.bam.org.


Michal Heron

FRIDAY
January 4

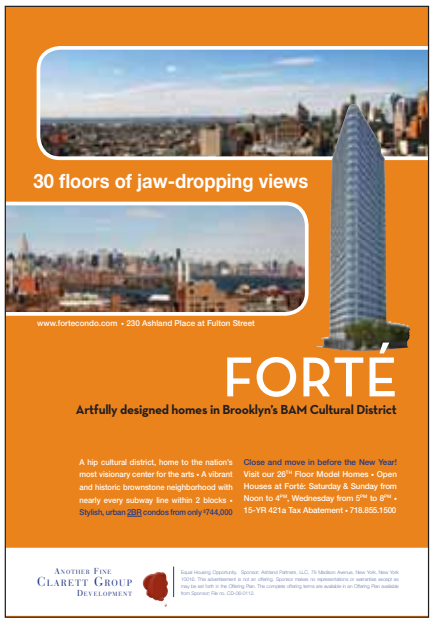


'Power' rock

Rock band Bridges and Powerlines, one of the best local acts we've seen in quite a while, will bring its high-energy show to Union Hall tonight. (They'll be joined by openers The Great Lakes and Rachel Lipson.) Make it your New Year's resolution to get to more great rock shows, and make this the first.

8 pm at Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope). $8. For information, call (718) 638-4400 or visit www.unionhallny.com.





NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay



John's songs: The work of composer and Midwood native John Corigliano — whose new production of "Pied Piper Fantasy" the Brooklyn Philharmonic will be premiering in February — will be performed as part of "Philomel's Song," an afternoon of flute and voice at the Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch on Saturday, Jan. 5.

SAT, DEC 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDING 101: Prospect Park Audubon Center offers a guided tour of the park. Learn why the park is designated an important bird area. Noon to 1:30 pm. Enter Park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. **Free.**

ICE SKATING: at the Wollman Rink in Prospect Park. 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 965-8999.

PERFORMANCE

STAGED READING: Ryan Repertory Company presents the mystery: "The Perfect Medium," by Eileen Fischer. $10. 8 pm. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

OTHER

PET ADOPTION: Care-A-Van Brooklyn Mobile Adoption Agency hosts an adoption day. 10 am. Four and A Tail, 240 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-2717.

SUN, DEC 30

PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a colloquy on New Year's resolutions. 11 am. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

FLATBUSH FARM: Afternoon feast of BBQ, seasonal food and music. 3 pm to 6 pm. 76-78 St. Marks Place. (718) 622-3276.

ICE SKATING: at the Wollman Rink in Prospect Park. See Sat., Dec. 29.

Noon to 9 pm. 416 Van Brunt St. (718) 360-0838. **Free.**

MON, DEC 31

New Year's Eve

FUN RUN: Slope Sports and Brooklyn Road Runners host a 3.3-mile New Year's Eve run in Prospect Park. $20 in advance, $25 day of. 11:15 pm. Race begins at Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park. (718) 230-4686.

PARTY: New Year's Eve party at St. Finbar Center. $40, $20 kids 12 and younger. 8 pm. Bath Avenue and Bay 20th Street. (718) 236-3312.

BARGEMUSIC: New Year's Eve all-Bach classical music program. $150 includes a complimentary glass of champagne. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

PARTY RIDE: 10th annual New Year's Eve ride hosted by Time's Up. Music, dancing and fireworks in Central Park. Meet at Brooklyn-side entrance to the Williamsburg Bridge bikepath. 10 pm. www.times-up.org. **Free.**

NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS: Brooklyn's biggest party with New Year's Eve fireworks at midnight! Free hot chocolate and music at 11 pm. Also, 3.3K run begins at 11:15 pm. Grand Army Plaza; best locations for viewing the fireworks include anywhere in Grand Army Plaza, inside the Park on West Drive, and along Prospect Park West between Grand Army Plaza and Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999. **Free.**

CHAMPAGNE TASTING: LeNell's hosts a champagne tasting, teaches you how to read labels and pick out party treats. Wuorinen and Harrison. $35, $30 seniors, $20 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

TUES, JAN 1

New Year's Day

POLAR BEAR CLUB: Annual dip into the Atlantic to raise funds for Camp Sunshine, a camp for ill kids. 1 pm. Coney Island Boardwalk at Stillwell Avenue. Donation encouraged. (718) 356-7741. For info, visit www.polarbearclub.org.

FRI, JAN 4

GUITAR MUSIC: Edward R. Murrow High School hosts a guitar fest. $8. 7 pm. 1600 Ave. L. (718) 258-9283.

OPERA: St. Augustine Roman Catholic Church hosts a performance of Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Parishioners and members of local Brooklyn choirs perform. $20, $10 students and seniors. 8 pm. 116 Sixth Ave. (718) 783-3132.

BARGEMUSIC: American contemporary music series features works by Carter,

SAT, JAN 5

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

ICE SKATING: at the Wollman Rink in Prospect Park. $5, $3 kids and seniors. $6 skate rental. Sessions at 10 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 6 pm; 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8999.

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC: Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch presents "Philomel's Song," art songs for flute and voice. Works by Corigliano, Rodrigo, Ibert and others. 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-7000. **Free.**

HAITIAN MUSIC: Carnival Dawn performs Haiti's rites of January, party for the Three Kings and cutting of the Cake of Seven Colors. 8 pm. South Oxford Space, 138 S. Oxford St. Call for ticket info. (718) 953-6638.

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music program features works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. $35, $30 seniors, $20 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

OTHER

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?: FIDO (Fellowship in the Interest of Dogs and Their Owners) hosts a gathering. Fellowship, coffee, cake and chew bones. 8 am to 10 am. Long Meadow, Prospect Park. Enter park at Ninth Street off Prospect Park West. www.fidobrooklyn.org. **Free.**

TREE RECYCLING: Bring your Christmas tree to Prospect Park and have it turned into mulch. Remove all decorations prior to drop off. Use the Third Street and Willink entrance and take home mulch for your garden. 10 am to 2 pm. (718) 965-8960. **Free.**

ARTIST TALK: Skylight Gallery presents a talk by artists on "African Complexions." 2 pm to 5 pm. 1368 Fulton St. Call for info. (718) 636-6949.

FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum hosts its monthly event featuring a program of live music, dance performances, spoken word and a dance party. Highlights include Ayyoub playing Arabic music fused with jazz and Latin sounds, poetry and theater of Suhair Hammad and Leila Buck, an art class for kids, a waltz party with a Middle Eastern twist. For full list of programs visit www.brooklynmuseum.org. Event runs from 5 pm to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 636-5000. **Free.**

SUN, JAN 6

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDING WALK: Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts a walk to explore the Lullwater and Peninsula Nature Trails. See the park's wintering ducks as they ring in the New Year. Rain or shine. Led by Brooklyn Bird Club. 10 am to noon. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. **Free.**

PERFORMANCE

THREE KINGS: Kingsborough Community College hosts a celebration of the 12th day of Christmas: "El Dia de los Reyes." Music and dance from the Dominican Republic. 3 pm. 2001 Oriental Blvd. (718) COLLEGE. **Free.**

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music program features works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. $35, $30 seniors, $20 students. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

OTHER

YOUNG SCHOLARS SERIES: Monthly Sunday brunch, curated by Congregation Beth Elohim Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Daniel Bronstein. Up-and-coming contemporary Jewish thinkers share their work in an informal format. Today: "Jewish Blackface, From Eddie Cantor to Chess Records." Dr. Ari Kelman is guest speaker. $5. 11 am to 12:30 pm. Eighth Avenue and Garfield Place. (718) 768- 3814.

TREE RECYCLING: in Prospect Park. 10 am to 2 pm. See Sat., Jan. 5.

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Nine Days In Brooklyn**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: calendar@brooklynpaper.com; by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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BAY RIDGE Bay Ridge Paper, Bensonhurst Paper.
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Steve: Vito's going down

Harrison, Dem '06 loser, is backed for '08 by Barbaro, who fell in '04

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The candidate who ran a losing race against New York City's lone Republican congressman in 2006 won a much-touted endorsement for the 2008 campaign this week — but the nod from former Assemblyman Frank Barbaro isn't as vital as this piece of news: Harrison's GOP rival is having early trouble raising money.

On Friday, Steve Harrison, a Bay Ridge attorney and former chairman of Community Board 10, was endorsed by Barbaro, a former Gravesend lawmaker who remains a heavy hitter in the cloistered world of Bay Ridge and Staten Island politics and who himself faced Fossella, also unsuccessfully, in 2004.

"I'm very pleased and very honored," said Harrison.



The Brooklyn Paper file / Tom Callan

Steve Harrison

For his part, Barbaro, who grabbed 41 percent of the vote against Fossella in 2004, called Harrison "refreshing and honest." Harrison went down in 2006 with 43 percent of the vote.

Despite Harrison's wide margin of defeat, some political pundits gave him high marks for doing as well as he did, given the huge disparity between his campaign coffers ($140,000) and Fossella's ($1.5 million).

This time around, Fossella's pockets are not yet full. As of Sept. 30, the five-term incumbent had just $50,000 on hand for his presumed re-election campaign, while Harrison had already raised $37,000. Fossella's lack of funds is due, in part, to the $209,000 in debt he accrued in 2006.

Fossella's campaign spokeswoman, Georgea Kaye, dismissed any concerns about Fossella's finances.

"The committee raises between $1.2 and $1.8 million every election cycle and we are on track to reach our goals this cycle as well," said Kaye.

Barbaro had only praise for Harrison this week, while disparaging his likely Democratic primary opponent..

Harrison is "for an immediate withdrawal of the troops from Iraq, he's for national health insurance, he's for protecting social security, and he's for a women's right to choose," said Barbaro.

Barbaro criticized Harrison's Democratic rival, Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island), as "conservative" for his support of the death penalty, the invasion of Iraq, and the Patriot Act.

Barbaro may still be harboring a grudge over Recchia's reported — though unconfirmed — leaking of information to Fossella during Barbaro's 2004 bid.

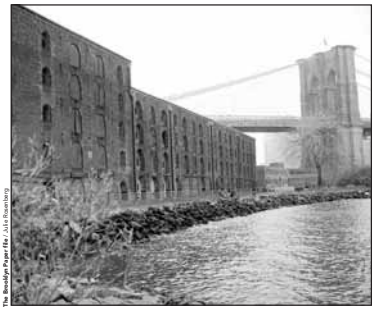
In October, the Staten Island Advance reported that Recchia was being accused of leaking information to Fossella's 2004 campaign through state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R–Queens).

"Domenic was always saying, 'Vito's gotta do this, Vito's gotta do that,' " Lanza told the Advance. "He would tell me, 'I like Vito. Vito's a great guy.' "

Neither Lanza nor Recchia would comment for this story. But Barbaro said, "I happen to believe that people should be presumed innocent until proven guilty."

For his part, Harrison professed confidence that he would beat the Coney Island Democratic to win the primary, and then the election in November 2008.

"We will definitely take the next election," said Harrison.



The Brooklyn Paper file / Julia Rosenbaum

The state's Empire–Fulton Ferry State Park — the site of countless marriages and concerts — has been indefinitely closed because the long-vacant, Civil War–era Empire Stores warehouse is crumbling.

Hair's to the season

Getting a trim at Xmas is the key to holiday cheer!

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

Here's the real reason why this is the "most wonderful time of the year": you can drink at the barbershop!

In a tradition that ranks right up there with trimming the tree, baking cookies and giving interfaith couples a copy of my book, "Chrismukkah," barbershops all over Brooklyn take advantage of the nip in the air to set up mini-bars and treat their customers to a seasonal toast.

Most shops put out a bottle of whiskey, but some go all out.

"This is our way of thanking our customers," said Vito Fiumefreddo, an owner of the Park Slope Barber Shop on Seventh Avenue (pictured), which sets up a bar with gin, Sambuca, Cinzano, bourbon, whiskey (and whisky), wine and a beer cooler.

How did bartending and barbering get inexorably bound?

"It's a barber shop," he said. "It's a guy's place. And a barber is like a bartender anyway. But how else can we say 'thanks' — by giving out free samples of hair gel?!"

But, alas, this sacred holiday tradition is endangered. After getting my annual shot and a haircut in Park Slope, I make an exhaustive survey of old-school barber shops all over Brooklyn and discovered that fewer haircutting places are practicing what I always believed to be the most venerable tradition since watching "It's a Wonderful Life" 16 before New Year's.

Many of the usual places were dryer than a church rectory in West Texas during Prohibition. At the Brooklyn Marriott, the owner of Allegria hair salon told me that he hasn't put out a bottle in years.

"Nobody drinks anymore!" he said, before offering me a cookie. A cookie? This is a haircut, not a bake sale!

In Bay Ridge, I passed 10 barber shops without finding a one with a bottle of anything stronger than Brylcreem.

There may be a reason that the holiday has gotten so unfestive: giving out booze, it turns out, is illegal.

"We sometimes send warning letters to salons," said a spokesman for the State Liquor Authority. "Free or not, giving out shots is illegal trafficking."

Fiumefreddo had a different take. "It's the holiday," he said. "What better time to have a drink?"

And there is some good news on the horizon: This week, I noticed a women's salon on Henry Street put out a bottle. It was Chablis, but you gotta start somewhere.



The Brooklyn Paper / Nicole Bauer

FALLING DOWN

Decrepit Empire Stores forces closure of waterfront park

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

State officials hastily closed Empire–Fulton Ferry State Park on the DUMBO waterfront last week after a Civil War–era warehouse was declared unsafe — the latest chapter in the state's failure to develop the site.

The closure came after the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation received engineering reports showing "structural deficiencies and deteriorating conditions" at the Empire Stores, the abandoned coffee and tea warehouse.

"Other identified structural weaknesses at the building include a large crack that has developed in the northwest corner of the building and the deteriorating brick window arches," the agency said in a statement.

The redevelopment of the warehouse building has been stalled for more than two decades as the state transferred the development rights from one developer to the next.

DUMBO titan David Walentas of Two Trees Management held the rights for years — dating back to the 1980s — before the Empire State Development Corporation handed the site over to his rival Shaya Boymelgreen in 2002.

Boymelgreen had planned to convert the warehouses into a shopping mall modeled after the Chelsea Market.

That development would have been a part of the so-called Brooklyn Bridge Park, an open space and commercial development controlled by the ESDC.

But last year, the state snatched the property back from Boymelgreen, claiming that he let it languish while he worked on other projects.

Shortly after giving Boymelgreen the boot, the ESDC announced plans to convert the warehouses to a performing arts venue. Now it looks like those plans will also be stalled.

State officials said the park would remain closed until scaffolding could be installed to prevent park-goers from being injured if bricks fall from the Empire Stores' crumbling window arches.

"Empire Stores is a truly significant structure and is imbedded in the character of the DUMBO section of Brooklyn," said State Parks Commissioner Carol Ash. "Right now, as we continue to seek more answers from engineers and other experts, we need to proceed with protecting the public and stabilizing the building. We are hopeful that once necessary bridging is installed along the building, the park will reopened."

The Empire–Fulton Ferry Park is a nine-acre waterfront park along Water Street on the East River between the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges.

It is slated to be subsumed by the larger state project, the so-called Brooklyn Bridge Park, which will stretch 1.3 miles from the Manhattan Bridge to Atlantic Avenue.

RISING UP

DUMBO landmarking OK'd

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

DUMBO became Brooklyn's 19th historic district last Tuesday — a designation that gives the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission veto power on any major alterations to buildings or new construction in the former manufacturing stronghold that is rapidly becoming a residential enclave.

"DUMBO was essential to Brooklyn's rise as a major manufacturing center, and was home to some of America's most important industrial firms that produced everything from ale and paper boxes to soap and steel wool," said Commission Chairman Robert Tierney.

The designation — which gives the Commission broad oversight over alterations of existing buildings, but also a final say over the design of new buildings — was effective as of the unanimous Dec. 18 vote.

In the announcement, the city refers to the neighborhood as the "DUMBO Historic District," despite the name's late 20th-century origins.

Indeed, it was real-estate developer David Walentas who bought up whole chunks of what was then "Gairville" in the 1980s, and rebranded it "Down Under Brooklyn Bridge Overpass" with dreams of transforming it into Brooklyn's SoHo.

Tucker Reed, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District, said he hoped the designation indicated that the city would pay more attention to the neighborhood.

"We hope this finally means the city will start investing resources in fixing public infrastructure in DUMBO, like our historic Belgian block streets," said Reed.

The historic district is bounded by John Street to the north, York Street to the south, Main Street to the west and Bridge Street to the east, and includes 91 buildings.

Almost all of the industrial buildings in the historic district date from between 1880 and 1920, the period during which manufacturing in Brooklyn came of age. Now, DUMBO is better known as home to the $1-million, one-bedroom condo, and, of course, its enduring views of the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges.

Whether or not the historic district designation will prevent future buildings like the oft-maligned, monolithic Beacon Tower to rise in DUMBO remains to be seen.

"Would the Commission in all its wisdom approve a project like the Beacon?" asked Reed. "It's unclear. But the designation does provide for another level of oversight for projects like that."

"Right now the Metropolitan is the most exciting museum in the world" —*New Republic*

Monday, Dec. 31
9:30 am–5:30 pm

Special Holiday Opening

The holidays continue at the Met. There's still time to see the Christmas tree and a rare, 15th-century Hebrew prayerbook.

Enjoy Impressionist and Post-Impressionist favorites in spectacular new galleries, paintings by Rembrandt, Baroque tapestries, and so much more.

MET HOLIDAY MONDAYS sponsored by Bloomberg

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TRADITION. EXPRESSION. REFLECTION.
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Sunday, January 6, 2:30 PM

The Truce (Miramax, 1997, 125 min)

Film is followed by a conversation between John Turturro and Budd Mishkin

Based upon Primo Levi's autobiographical novel, *The Reawakening*, this film follows Levi from his liberation from Auschwitz on his long journey home. An Italian-Jewish chemist, Levi was a member of the Italian resistance before he was captured and deported to Auschwitz.

$10 adults, $7 seniors/students, $5 members

Wednesday, January 9
6:30 PM

Churchill's Promised Land: Zionism and Statecraft
(Yale University Press, 2007)

With author Michael Makovsky
Foreign Policy Director, Bipartisan Policy Center

This program is part of the Museum's book club, Looking Back, Facing Forward, co-sponsored by The Forward *and moderated by its associate editor, Gabriel Sanders.*

$5 all tickets, free for members



Wednesday, January 16
6:30 PM

The Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Leaders from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, and Muslim communities will discuss the relationship between spiritual practice and social change.

Moderated by **Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy**, President, The Interfaith Alliance Foundation

Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J., West Side Jesuit Community

Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, Pastor, Abyssinian Baptist Church

Author **Al Vorspan**, Director of Social Action Emeritus, Union for Reform Judaism.

Co-sponsored by The Interfaith Alliance Foundation

$10 adults, $7 students/seniors, $5 members

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the museums of lower manhattan

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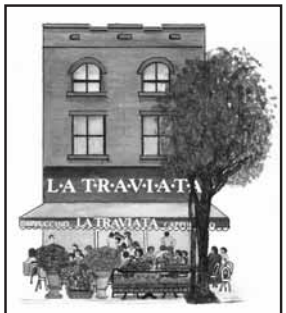
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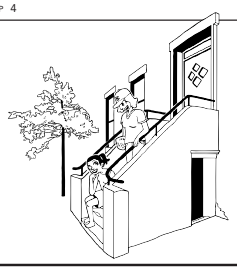
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THE stoop

THE 2007 REVIEW EDITION

A year in our neighborhoods

In 2007, The Brooklyn Paper's readers found themselves on The Stoop, our new page dedicated to neighborhood news, gossip and all the other stuff that we talk about on our front steps. And what a year for The Stoop to make its debut! Indeed, this year had it all: from a booming Downtown to a busted Bay Ridge pharmacy; from a kickball game in Williamsburg to a kicked-out old man in Carroll Gardens; from fat-filled pastries in Cobble Hill to a fat guy in Bay Ridge trying to march his way to fame, fortune and a slimmer waistline on an ABC reality show. Those are just some of the highlights. Here's our first-annual roundup of some of the news that made each neighborhood feel like home. Mike McLaughlin reports:


The Brooklyn Paper file / Julie Rosenberg


The Brooklyn Paper file / Robin Lewis


The Brooklyn Paper file / Tom Callan


The Brooklyn Paper file / Gersh Kuntzman

A stoop-ifying year: (Clockwise from left) Stores in Park Slope gave out free umbrellas to encourage local shopping; Clinton Hill's Broken Angel remained, um, broken; 94-year-old Dominick Diomede was evicted in Carroll Gardens; and anti-Semitic graffiti appeared in Brooklyn Heights.

CARROLL GARDENS –COBBLE HILL

The thread this year running through BoCoCa — or should we make that South Brooklyn? — was about the head-on collision of the old borough with the new. The old timers won some battles against the newcomers, but the upstarts are making their mark, too.

Starting over: The year began with the greatest tale of resilience. Dominick Diomede, a 94-year-old man, was evicted from his Carroll Gardens apartment and vowed to sleep in a car rather than leave the neighborhood. But with the help of a persistent city social worker and the Fifth Avenue Committee, he was resettled on Third Avenue and is doing great.

Slow-roasted fine: Who doesn't like the smell of fresh coffee in the morning — or any hour of the day? The city, that's who. Gillies Coffee lost its appeal of a $400 odor-pollution fine. The odor? Those locally roasted beans.

Italian renaissance: The beloved Cammareri bakery came back from the dead in January and joined up with the Monteleone pastry shop to form a super sweets business on Court Street.

They're baa-ck: Also on Court Street, the delimen at Mastellone reclaimed their places behind the counter to much fanfare in March after new ownership failed to win over the regulars.

Nice, but expensive fit: Lucky Brand Jeans announced in May that Smith Street would become a new home for its $200 denim pants.

Standing not-so-tall: The Cobble Hill Historic District's height restriction lived to see another year as Two Trees Management failed to get permission to construct a 60-feet apartment building — 10 feet over the limit.

DOWNTOWN

Skyscrapers started going up all along the corridor between the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Manhattan Bridge, a new community that will someday house another 30,000 people. Naturally, Bruce Ratner has a piece of the action. But the best stories were local stories.

Auto zone: We know it's a park, but this is ridiculous! In January, Supreme Court judges agreed to remove their cars from a portion of Columbus Park so humans could use a long-shuttered walkway. But by the year's end, we're still waiting.

Mmmm, waffles: Amy Ruth's, the Harlem soul-food restaurant known for a fried chicken–and–waffles dish named after Al Sharpton, announces it will take over the old Gage & Tollner spot on Fulton Mall. Finally, an alternative to Micky D's.

Not so full steam ahead: What to do with the Admirals' Row in the Navy Yards? The city wants to put in a supermarket, but the feds, who own the crumbling mansions, think they can be renovated. Stay tuned.

The sky's the limit: Move over Williamsburgh Savings Bank — Bruce Ratner wants to build the city's tallest residential building. The mega-developer's plans for the corner of Jay and Tillary streets can go as high as he wants — and he reportedly wants to trump the Donald by going to 1,000 feet.

FORT GREENE–CLINTON HILL

"Green" isn't just part of the nabe's name, it's the way of life, too. This part of Brooklyn saw a profusion of eco-friendly projects in churches, cafes and on brownstone homes. In fact, it seemed the only thing that wasn't green this year was the neighborhood's eponymous park.

Wide load: L'Epicerie, a Vanderbilt Avenue boutique grocery, widened its aisles and rearranged its display in January, to make room for increasing numbers of baby strollers in the nabe.

Coming clean: Pratt Institute announced plans to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent over 10 years. The same month, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church said it would get right with God's green earth by doing things like "extreme recycling," switching over to fluorescent lights, and conducting an energy audit. Secular forces got into the act, too. The Fort Greene Association launched an initiative to get people be more aware of their homes' environmental impact.

Angel folds wings: The Broken Angel may be topless, but don't call her fallen. Shan Andersen, the developer and co-owner of the one-time Clinton Hill ziggurat, which artist Arthur Wood and his wife Cynthia built by hand over decades, insisted that building will soar again, despite its current run-of-the-mill appearance. By year's end, the building remained in tatters.

Going for broke: The Parks Department admits that it has misplaced $300,000 pledged for the restoration of historic Fort Greene Park, leaving parts of the park in a state of disrepair.

Put it in writing: A man protested the Atlantic Yards project by covering his Steuben Street home with an anti-Ratner and Bloomberg manifesto in blue painter's tape.

PARK SLOPE–PROSPECT HEIGHTS

It was "another year, another award" for the Slope, which kept alive the recognition it won in 2006 for high quality of life by capturing honors in October from the American Planning Association. But everything wasn't hunky-dory.

Garden of ire: The Church of Gethsemane — ironically named after the garden where Christ spent his last free night — unleashed a fury when its pastor announced in January it would sell its 10th Street backyard to developers, who would turn it into condos. The church finalized the deal in September and construction is ongoing.

Wrong way one way: Slopers beat back a plan in the spring to speed traffic on Sixth and Seventh avenues by turning them into one-way streets.

Terrible tweens: In at least three instances over two months, a group of Prospect Heights adolescents approached pedestrians and either hit them over the head with a blunt object or pointed what looked to be a toy gun in their direction. The perpetrators demanded nothing. Indeed, they appeared to have no motive beyond the sheer fun of harassing pedestrians, according to victims and the police.

Sharing in the rain: Seventh Avenue became a laboratory for the honors system. Businesses dispensed free yellow umbrellas to shoppers with the expectation they would be returned to other participating stores. The experiment has been a success so far.

Goodwill towards men: Homeless men who congregated and drank on the steps of the Old First Reformed Church tested the patience of the church and split the neighborhood opinion on what to do. (The men eventually abandoned their haunt in November.)

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS–DUMBO

It's not easy covering this corner of Brooklyn. Racists skulk the streets at night. Jagged pieces of glass are breaking news. And you never know who might snap when our camera flashes.

Smacked: The Brooklyn Paper's fearless photographer, Tom Callan, was attacked while snapping shots of the owner of a Montague Street restaurant that had been shut for health code violations. (No photographers were hurt in the making of this article.)

Hate crimes: Two Brooklyn Heights synagogues were vandalized with swastikas in September. The Nazi symbols were found on other buildings, too. Top cop Ray Kelly journeyed to Remsen Street to show support.

Jarred: Customers at Sahadi's fumed this fall when the Atlantic Avenue grocer has replaced the classic glass jars with generic plastic containers in the nuts, dried fruits and candies section — making it nearly impossible for customers to get glass shards stuck in their throats.

Recent history: The city created the DUMBO Historic District in December, even though the neighborhood didn't exist (in name) 20 years ago.

Crime wave: A series of break-ins and robberies on Washington and Main streets since the summer led to a beefed-up police presence in the neighborhood down under the Manhattan and Brooklyn bridge overpass and the formation of a civilian anti-crime group DUMBOwatch.

All mixed up: The opening night party for graffiti legend Shepard Fairey descended into chaos after a guest — quite possibly the equally famous artworld pest called "The Splasher" — started a fire. It turned out, the would-be arsonist was not the Splasher.

BAY RIDGE–DYKER HTS–BENSONHURST

Look at what the wind blew in this year. Of course, there was the Twister of '07, but the tempestuous local news was actually national with the steroid scandal, a reality TV saga and the immigration debate all unfolding, at least partially, in this neck of the woods.

Raw truth: There's an underground movement in Bay Ridge to enjoy forbidden fruit. Actually, it's illegal, un-pasteureized milk from Pennsylvania that has spawned a subculture of risk-taking milk-drinkers. Who knew? (Well, our readers did.)

They only come out at night: The troubles that started at Club Shadows last year carried into '07. In June, a big fight happened on the premises, and in August, a man was stabbed outside the nightspot.

'E' for effort: Will Millender, 26, was tearfully voted off ABC's reality show, "Fat March" for slowing down his team on its 550-mile weight-loss walk from Boston to Washington. The bright side? Now he can go back to his first stab at fame: Competitive eating.

Happy Birthday: The New Utrecht Reformed Church celebrated its 330th birthday in October. But what's so "new" about it?

Leave it to Dyker: Ernie Nardi of Dyker Heights not only incited a debate about illegal immigration at a Republican debate, but also thrust himself and his neighborhood into an international spotlight. The 59-year-old Dyker resident

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THE YEAR 2007 IN REVIEW

Whatta year!

Strange things are bound to happen when you cram 2.3 million cantankerous folks into 81.8 square miles of urban landscape. And so, we're less than surprised that in 2007, Brooklyn saw a nipple hair grow to lengths never before recorded, a landlord kicked a 94-year-old Carroll Gardener from his home, and a barge dropped anchor along the Brooklyn Heights shoreline and spent the summer filled with swimmers. Brooklyn also joined the ranks of Turkmenistan and Bulgaria as must-see destinations, and the borough sent a contestant to Miss America, only to lose. Here's our highly subjective take on this year in review. Dana Rubinstein reports:

JANUARY

Small wonder: Councilman Simcha Felder (D–Borough Park) rhapsodized to The Brooklyn Paper about his bladder after winning the Paper's coveted "Bladder of the Year" designation. He earned the honor by hiding in a City Council bathroom during the vote to elect his openly gay colleague Christine Quinn as Council Speaker. "[My] bladder deserves this award, as it boldly withstands a daily barrage of coffee that would destroy most other bladders," wrote Felder.

Deflated: Pfizer, the drug giant best known for Viagra, announced that it would pull out of Brooklyn, firing all 600 workers at its Williamsburg plant. Isn't there a miracle pill that keeps businesses firm?

Just like Bulgaria: Brooklyn made the Lonely Planet's "Blue List," the travel book's 2007 guide to 30 must-visit places, which, oddly, also included Central Bulgaria, Turkmenistan and Somaliland. Borough President Markowitz spent most of the year patting himself on the back for the mention.

Not so hot: The Miss America Pageant roundly dissed the Borough of Kings, eliminating Miss New York Bethlene Pancoast of Bay Ridge and giving the coveted tiara, roses and pageant glory to a generic "beauty" queen from Oklahoma. What rubes!



The record shows, he took the blows: Our photographer, Tom Callan, got smacked outside a popular Montague Street restaurant as he took photos for a story about the eatery's health code violations. Further evidence that it's a lot easier to just blog in your pajamas then actually do the legwork in this business.

FEBRUARY

Kid rock: Cobble Hill kid rock star Dan Zanes trounced English comedian-turned-crooner John Lithgow to win the Grammy for best Musical Album for Children for his masterpiece, "Catch That Train." Zanes celebrates by having snacks with Father Goose.

Gibran saga begins: The Department of Education announces the creation of its first Arabic language and culture academy, but didn't tell parents at Park Slope 's that the middle school would share space in their local elementary school. The ensuing protest over cramped conditions soon evolved (or, more accurately, devolved) into a campaign against founding principal Debbie Almontaser, who was later forced to resign.



MARCH

Vive la difference: Two friends and bona-fide Brooklyn gustatory legends become rivals in that most bittersweet of winter businesses: hawking hot-chocolate. Herve Poussot, who developed DUMBO's premiere patisserie, Almondine, with the help of his friend, the famed chocolatier Jacques Torres, stopped selling Torres's venerated cocoa in favor of his own concoction. Unfortunately for Poussot, his cocoa couldn't compare, even if his sandwiches are to die for.



He's out!: Shaya Boymelgreen — the mega-developer who dragged Park Slope's border west from Fifth to Fourth avenues — announces that he is planning no more housing. Lovers of nice architecture sighed in relief.

APRIL

Town and gown: Elisa Zuritsky, a married Brooklyn Heights woman, used an essay contest to give away the lush silk gown that she'd ordered but never worn for her nuptials. The $3,000 Mariana Hardwick-designed gown ended up going to a woman dubbed "Ann," whose fiancé was about to deploy to Iraq. Mazel tov!

Hope-less cause: Rep. Yvette Clarke (D–Park Slope) was the only congressperson to vote against renaming the Ellis Island library for legendary comedian Bob Hope. "I see the museum and all aspects of the island to be greater than any one human being," she said. In a related story, Clarke votes against a proposal to rename milk after Bing Crosby.



Hamptons bound: Brooklynites shook their heads at the latest evidence that their borough is the new Upper West Side: the Hampton Jitney began making regular stops in Brooklyn. What's next? Our very own Whole Foods? Oh, sorry. Strike that.

MAY

Beached: Brooklyn swimmers rejoiced that the state's economic development arm was going to float a pool in a barge at the foot of Brooklyn Heights. The pool was so popular, and the lines so long, that Brooklynites proceeded to grouse about the wait.

Judge Phillips freed: Six years after he was declared mentally incompetent under murky circumstances involving his political rival, District Attorney Charles Hynes, and two years after he had been locked down in a Bronx nursing home, former Civil Court Judge John Phillips was finally freed. Welcome back.

JUNE

Hair apparent: We learned that no one in the world has a longer nipple hair than Doug Williams, who had the strand officially measured in his Williamsburg backyard. The hair that got him into the Guinness Book of World Records was 5.078 inches long.



City hookers: The city announced that it would prostitute Red Hook Park to the highest bidder next summer, even though the existing Latin American food vendors have made the out-of-the-way park a foodie destination. A tip would have been nicer.

Dubious distinction: Cops swarmed through the offices of The Brooklyn Paper after it became one of 20 papers nationwide

*See **YEAR** on page 6*

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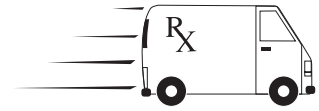
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THE YEAR 2007 IN REVIEW

The year in SMACKDOWN

It wouldn't be Brooklyn without the smackdown — those classic conflicts between a pair of feisty fighters. From Rep. Anthony Weiner striking a blow against "the Republic Party," to Mayor Bloomberg dissing Coney Island's biggest landowner, Joe Sitt, to a battle for hot chocolate hegemony in DUMBO, 2007 was a great year for anyone who loves a great fight. So grab a box of popcorn and let's recap! Adam F. Hutton reports:

ROUND 1

Weiner vs. Bush: Rep. Anthony Weiner (D–Sheepshead Bay) got so sick and tired of hearing our fearless leader George Bush irritate liberals by referring to their party as the "Democrat Party" that he started removing the "an" from the end of the GOP's given name. In doing so, Weiner unleashed a burst of pride across the liberal blogo-pundit-ocracy. And who said politics were childish?

Edge: There are no winners here, but there is one wiener.

ROUND 2

Beep vs. JFK: Our effervescent Borough President Markowitz tried out his German, and channeled John F. Kennedy, when the Deputy Mayor of Vienna came to town in March. "Ich bin ein Wiener," Markowitz proudly intoned, declaring, "I am a citizen of Vienna." In doing so, Markowitz recalled JFK, who, when visiting Berlin, famously said "Ich bin ein Berliner," which is often mistranslated as "I am a jelly donut." Forget about the obvious Markowitz-donut joke for a second, but the Beep failed to achieve Kennedy's level of charisma, and the slain president wasn't even trying to make a joke.

Edge: Never bet against JFK.

ROUND 3

Tang vs. Dang: For a while, Hanco's was the only Vietnamese sandwich shop in Boerum Hill. Run by the Tang family, Hanco's had a monopoly on the delicious pork stuffed sandwiches until the Dang family, which owns Nicky's, a "banh mi" restaurant in the East Village, snatched up a piece of real estate nearby. That would be the makings of a good smackdown right there, but it turns out that Tang used to drop in on Dang at his shop in Sunset Park and pick his brain, looking for pointers that would help him open his own shop. This year, Dang fought back by moving in down the block.

Edge: Hanco's. And at $4.25, you can't beat the price.

ROUND 4

Bloomy vs. Sitt: After a months-long stand-off between Coney Island landlord Joe Sitt and the city, Mayor Bloomberg publicly quashed Sitt's plan to build a Vegas on the Atlantic, insulting his competence, and decreeing that the legendary playground should be made a public park. That had to hurt.

Edge: Bloomberg. He's got the power (and he also has more money).

ROUND 5

Baker vs. Chocolatier: Once upon a time, Almondine, the DUMBO bakery known for its tarte tatin (that's French for "fancy upside down apple tart"), sold hot chocolate made by Jacques Torres, the legendary chocolatier across the street. But in March, the Frenchman-owned Almondine started a brawl above its weight class by selling its own hot chocolate. But which Frenchman emerged victorious? The one who wasn't selling hot chocolate that tasted like a mix.

Edge: Jacques Torres

ROUND 6

Mike vs. Vince: After Mayor Bloomberg proposed a property tax cut and a $400 rebate for homeowners, Bay Ridge Councilman Vince Gentile tried to one-up the billionaire mayor by proposing a rebate three times as large. Nice try, but the Independent Budget Office pointed out that neither giveback would help renters. We couldn't agree more.

Edge: Who cares? Brooklyn rents.

ROUND 7

Raskin vs. Hecht: It's an annual tradition that goes back to when Moses wore short pants. Every Hanukkah, Rabbi Aaron Raskin of the Chabad of Brooklyn Heights, takes on Rabbi Shimon Hecht (Raskin's uncle) of the Chabad of Brownstone Brooklyn, in a battle for menorah supremacy. The Heights menorah at Borough Hall is considered "Brooklyn's official menorah" while the one in Park Slope's Grand Army Plaza is a foot taller and a foot wider (and you know what they say about the size of a man's menorah).

Edge: Hecht — not because his menorah is bigger, but because Mr. Met provided the first night entertainment. Who knew he was Jewish?

ROUND 9

Where's the beef? The Battle of Brooklyn Beef was finally joined, thanks to the proposed opening of a Morton's steakhouse in the Brooklyn Marriott. So far, Brooklyn favorite Peter Luger hasn't returned the volley. But does it really need to? Luger's has been in the borough since 1887 and is as Brooklyn as Marty Markowitz. Morton's is a 29-year-old Chicago-based steakhouse — and they don't call Chicago "the second city" for nothing.

Edge: Peter Luger, of course. But check back with us in 2098 when this battle has had a chance to play out a bit.

ROUND 10

Monte's vs. Ferdinando's vs. Bamonte's: In a virtually unprecedented three-way smackdown, three venerable Italian restaurants — Monte's Venetian Room in Gowanus, Ferdinando's Focacceria in Carroll Gardens and Bamonte's in Williamsburg — each claimed to be Brooklyn's oldest. Monte's embossed its claim on its doormat, so The Brooklyn Paper — always hungry for the truth — set out to test the veracity of the assertion. As Jim Morrison once said, the truth is uncertain (but the end is always near).

Edge: Bamonte's. The owner has a deed dating back to 1900.

YEAR IN REVIEW...

Continued from page 5

to receive a letter suggesting an Al Qaeda plot against investment giant, Goldman Sachs. The letter was signed "A.Q.U.S.A.," a reference to either al Qaeda or our friends at the American Quinoa Unloaders and Suppliers Association.

JULY

Chestnut didn't crack: Joey Chestnut vanquished the jawthritis-handicapped, six-time world hot dog-eating champ Takeru Kobayashi in the Nathan's Famous frankfest in Coney Island with a stunning, world-record-setting, 66 hot-dog-and-bun performance.

Barack and roll: A confident Barack Obama strolled into a mansion in Brooklyn Heights and promptly declared the Hillary Clinton stronghold "Obama territory." Then he hit up the locals for cash. How's that for Brooklyn chutzpah?

AUGUST

Stuck in park: While million-dollar condos continued to sell like hotcakes at One Brooklyn Bridge Park, construction of the controversial "park" itself remained at a standstill, as the state reexamined the housing and open space project's finances. Now, where are the wealthy supposed to picnic? On the artificial turf in Cadman Plaza Park? Puh-lease.

Freakish twister: A rare tornado ripped through Bay Ridge, uprooting trees, damaging homes and cars, knocking



out subway service, shocking the bejeezus out of a borough that hadn't witnessed a similar meteorological phenomenon since the 19th century, and eclipsing all other weather chitchat for weeks.

Strange fruit: Our normally stingy editor forked over $11 for a single mangosteen. A Coney Island greengrocer called Orchard was the only market in the city where one could get these extremely rare Thai orbs. And the culinary experience? "Slimy" and "citrus-hinted" (which, apparently, is a good thing in a mangosteen).

SEPTEMBER

Mmmm, pancakes: We learned that, like a plate of piping-hot flapjacks, a new International House of Pancakes restaurant would be slapped down on Livingston Street near Bond Street in Downtown. It opened in late December.

Heights Nazis: Neo-Nazis proved, yet again, that they are bad by blitzing Brooklyn Heights with 19 spray-painted swastikas and reams of anti-Semitic flyers. The racists struck just hours after Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke at Columbia University. Coincidence? We think not.

Not so green: We learned that the underground oil spill that has been leaking toxic vapors into Greenpoint air since the 1950s is, at 30 million gallons, three times the size of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster, giving Brooklynites yet another reason to boast.

OCTOBER

Sell out: Applebee's hires Fort Greene's legendary Cake Man Raven to sell his amazing red velvet cake at its Flatbush Avenue Extension franchise. Raven swore that the corporate deal wouldn't degrade his brand. Only time — and taste — will tell. The cakes went on sale during the last week of December.



Six-year-old menace: A 6-year-old Park Slope girl was hit with a warning letter — and faced a possible $300 fine from the city — for drawing on the sidewalk with common chalk. Readers across the globe reacted with horror. Our favorite response: "I have read few things so sad."

Maggie speaks! Maggie Gyllenhaal put the punctuation mark on our coverage of her move to Park Slope. That punctuation mark can be best described as ?!?%@&?!! Or, in printable words, she hated it. Turns out, that publicity shot from her 2002 movie "Secretary," which featured Gyllenhaal wearing nothing but a feather boa, isn't one of her favorites. Yeah, tell it to your agent, sweetheart!

NOVEMBER

WWJD? Rev. Daniel Meeter of Park Slope's Old First Reformed Church got so fed up with the homeless people sleeping on the steps of his house of worship that he began throwing out their belongings — a move that has prompted a flurry of multi-denominational soul-searching in liberal Park Slope. Insert multi-denominational soul-searching liberal Park Slope joke here.

Say what? The city is a gift that just keeps on giving us reasons to guffaw. This time, the bureaucrats thought it prudent to fine Park Slope and Cobble Hill shopkeepers up to $300 for putting sandwichboards in front of their stores. Shopkeepers responded by cloistering the signs, forcing residents to remain ignorant of daily specials.

Global warming: A restaurant owner who touts his eateries as forward-thinking raised money with the decidedly old-fashioned strategy of hawking a sexy pin-up calendar featuring his waitresses. Habana Outpost mini-mogul Sean Meenan didn't see any particular contradiction in the matter. Of course not: He didn't pose for one of the pictures!

DECEMBER

Napoleon complex: Apparently still miffed at the failure of his attempt to make Miss Brooklyn — the centerpiece of his Atlantic Yards project — Brooklyn's tallest skyscraper, Bruce Ratner decided to give it another go, with reported plans to erect a 1,000-foot skyscraper at Jay and Tillary streets, a skyscraper that would dwarf the 512-foot Williamsburgh Savings Bank.

Free at last! The city decides against condemning Joy Chatel's Duffield Street home, which historians believe is linked to the Underground Railroad.

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New year's feast

Restaurants ring in 2008 with rich foods, balloon drops, music & more

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Paper

What do we love about New Year's Eve? It's a celebration of everything good about the year with enough booze to blot out what we want to forget. Add a great meal — especially one that someone else prepared — and you're ushering in the next 12 months in effortless style.

Whether you're an early-to-eat-and-early-to-bed sort, or your idea of a good time doesn't begin until the ball drops, we've found a restaurant that's an ideal fit for your 2007 finale. Just be sure to call early for reservations.

Just the food, thanks

You'll have a great meal with enough time to arrive at a late night party if you dine at Cobble Hill's **Provence en Boite**, where chef Jean-Jacques Bernat will be serving a New Year's Eve feast from 5 to 8:30 pm. The $65, five-course dinner (with one glass of champagne) begins with an "amuse bouche," to be followed by your choice of appetizer, entree and dessert.

Bernat's lush offerings include a warm onion tart with goat cheese and baby greens, and entrees such as roasted rack of lamb, served with baby vegetables, roasted chestnuts and berry sauce.

Bernat is as adept at the sweet side of the menu as he is the savory (the cafe serves as a patisserie, too), so the desserts will be splendid.

LouLou, the tiny, romantic bistro in Fort Greene, entices diners with chef Bill Snell's updated French menu. For New Year's Eve, Snell is offering a $55, four-course menu with choices for the vegetarian and carnivore. Although the prix fixe doesn't include wine, one can take in the intoxicating rack of wild boar with fig confit and mascarpone polenta, or coffee- and coriander-crusted sirloin steak, and for dessert, there's flourless chocolate cake with vanilla bean Chantilly whipped cream.

Charlie Statelmen, chef-owner of **Cafe On Clinton** in Cobble Hill, is offering three seatings for the evening (5:30 to 6:30 pm, includes the full menu as well as specials; 7:30 to 8:30 pm, features half the standard menu, specials and a five-course tasting menu; and 10 to 10:30 pm introduces the five-course tasting menu with one bottle of champagne).

At Cafe On Clinton, you can put all the ills of 2007 behind you while sipping oxtail consomme with earthy black truffles, then choosing among the filet mignon with bearnaise sauce, mashed potatoes and asparagus or lobster with a gingered Sautemes sauce.

Late diners can linger at the tables or congregate at the bar to toast and watch the ball drop.

"No bells, whistles, balloon drops or orchestra. Just great food and drink," promises John Tucker, owner of the venerable **Rose Water** in Park Slope. The eatery's new chef, Marcellus Coleman, is spinning out a fabulous five-course dinner with two to three options per course.

Start with "hamachi" (yellowtail) accompanied by a lapsang sake gelee. Follow that with a terrine of foie gras then a wild mushroom cooked in parchment paper, or maybe a lovely, butter-poached lobster? Take a sip of wine before diving into the truffle-crusted rack of lamb or the roast squab with boulangerie potatoes.

For dessert at Rose Water, the timbale of bittersweet chocolate mousse with caramel ice cream sounds divine. The entire blowout is offered for $100 per person, plus $45 to pair wine with each course.

Follow the aromas of cinnamon and cardamon to the **Fez Cafe** in Windsor Terrace, where chef-owner Bahija Elmourabit is putting the finishing touches on a Moroccan feast. For

See **NEW YEARS** on page 8



The Brooklyn Paper / Rachel Bocay Alcott

Party at The Farm: At The Farm on Adderley in Ditmas Park, Chef Tom Kearney's New Year's Eve menu includes Maine lobster with saffron orzo and chocolate fondue with figs and pears.



Celebrate 2008

New Year's Eve parties

New Year's Eve can go either way. Sometimes a great party will keep you out until dawn, then staggering into a diner for breakfast having already broken most of your resolutions. In other years, a quiet night with friends can do the trick.

With this in mind, we've combed the borough for live music, dancing and over-the-top parties to keep you entertained all night long.

— Sarah McCormick

In Bay Ridge

The Wicked Monk's New Year's Eve bash, kicking off at 10 pm, boasts a giant balloon drop! Music by Dog Voices and a pop-rock DJ will keep the crowd moving, while a midnight champagne toast (not to mention complimentary noisemakers) will insure that your 2008 starts off with a bang.

10 pm to 4 am at The Wicked Monk (8415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge). Free. Subway: R to 86th Street. For information, call (718) 921-0601 or visit www.wickedmonk.com.

In Brooklyn Heights

Put on your dancing shoes and swing by **Magnetic Field** for the "New Year's Swingin' Eve Blow-Out." Live music from The Fleshtones (pictured) and The Black Hollies, along with DJ Phast Freddie — a 1960s music specialist spinning rockabilly, doo-wop and soul — will keep revelers moving and shaking all night long.

9 pm at Magnetic Field (97 Atlantic Ave. at Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights). $20. Subway: 2, 3 to Clark Street. For information, call (718) 834-0069 or visit www.magneticbrooklyn.com.

In Greenpoint

The always-outrageous **Studio B**, famous for it's creepy location and rave-like parties, is

See **PARTIES** on page 8

EVENT

With the works

No matter who you're kissing when the clock strikes 12 on New Year's Eve, if you're in Brooklyn, there will be fireworks.

The most famous of the displays is the Zambelli Fireworks Company's annual show in Prospect Park. The midnight fireworks — which come in a variety of hues and shapes like peonies and whistles — are launched from the park's Long Meadow and aimed to frame the arch at Grand Army Plaza. We suggest camping out early, especially in prime viewing areas like inside the Park on West Drive and along Prospect Park West between Grand Army Plaza and Ninth Street, since the crowds flock to this once-a-year spectacle.



You won't have to wait until midnight to start enjoying the festivities, though. Sporty types will be trotting along in the 3.3-mile Fun Run beginning at 11:15 pm, and the less athletically inclined can enjoy complimentary hot cocoa and live music from Blacksmith and Friends at Grand Army Plaza starting at 11 pm.

Those hoping to burn even more calories in the New Year can get started right away with the New York Talks and Walks annual trek from Lower Manhattan over the Brooklyn Bridge. The walk, which begins near City Hall at 10:15 pm, gives those brave enough to walk across the bridge in December an in-depth history of the Brooklyn Bridge and — if the weather cooperates — should provide a chance to see fireworks from Brooklyn, Staten Island, Central Park and the far away land of New Jersey.

The New Year's Eve festivities kick off at 11 pm at Grand Army Plaza. For information, call (718) 965-8951 or visit www.prospectpark.org.

The New York Talks and Walks Tour of the Brooklyn Bridge will begin at 10:15 pm on Dec. 31 at 132 Nassau St. at Beekman Street in Manhattan. $50. For information, call (888) 377-4455 or visit www.newyorktalksandwalks.com.

— Daniel Goldberg

DINING

Flapjacks RX

It's never too early to start planning your New Year's Eve recovery strategy. Start looking now for a restaurant serving brunch on New Year's Day.



The Brooklyn Paper / Gregory Cuda

More often than not after a night of drinking, eating is the last thing on your mind. In fact, putting anything besides aspirin into your system often feels like it could have catastrophic results. Getting yourself fed, though, is an important part of the healing process.

"When you're hungover, you have to force yourself to eat," said Christophe Gest, the chef at Jolie (pictured), a French eatery on Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill. "A good, heavy meal will help you get past the hangover and absorb the alcohol. When I'm hungover, I force myself to eat a lot. For breakfast, eggs are good, and we have a traditional French onion soup that's very good early in the morning. It's hard to drink sometimes, but a Bloody Mary would work as well."

Consider these health benefits when you're making plans for New Year's Day brunch at Jolie, Chez Lola in Fort Greene, Lodge in Williamsburg or anywhere else that's open and dishing up eggs and much-needed cups of coffee.

Jolie Restaurant (320 Atlantic Ave. at Smith Street in Boerum Hill) will be serving brunch from noon to 6 pm on Jan 1. The restaurant accepts American Express. For information, call (718) 488-0777 or visit www.jolierestaurant.com.

Chez Lola (387 Myrtle Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene) will be serving brunch from noon to 5:30 pm on Jan 1. The restaurant accepts American Express. For information, call (718) 858-1484 or visit www.bistrolola.com.

Lodge (318 Grand St. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg) will be serving brunch from 11 am to 5 pm on Jan. 1. The restaurant accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. For information, call (718) 486-9400 or visit www.lodgenyc.com.

— Adam Rathe

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NEW YEARS...

Continued from page 7

$45, the chef is offering three courses that begin with Moroccan mussels in white wine with turmeric, entrees such as lamb shank with shittake mushrooms and Israeli couscous or grilled salmon with mustard sauce and sauteed vegetables. The meal concludes with chocolate cake or baklava and ice cream.

You can have two courses, 10 courses, or eat your way into oblivion at **Zipi Zape**, where Spanish tapas are the house specialty. This Williamsburg favorite is the place to come for chef Diego Gonzalez's vibrant small plates of octopus salad with pimento sherry sauce, Maryland oyster gratin with aioli sauce, or foie gras on toast with porcini pate and Rioja wine. Plates run from $1 to $14, and there are plenty of interesting wines to choose from.

Pietro's in Bay Ridge is accepting reservations for New Year's Eve dinner with seatings throughout the evening. Reserve early though, because owner Jimmy Mutkowski said, "It's really warm and cozy here. Great for a party." Chef Mario will be serving a full a la carte menu of Italian-American specialties with a complimentary glass of champagne. Among the many options: veal sorrentino with eggplant, prosciutto, mozzarella and white wine sauce or fresh filet of striped bass.

If you're looking for a night of romance, look no further than **Laura's Gourmet Restaurant** in Windsor Terrace. The Italian eatery will be serving a $55, four-course meal of salad, pasta, a main course such as stuffed filet of sole or a veal shank and dessert. Seatings begin at 4 pm. The meal comes complete with a glass of wine and a champagne toast that owner Laura Leone said, "Will get people ready to go out dancing!"

Get your groove on

Ditmas Park's answer to a hoedown is happening New Year's Eve at **The Farm on Adderley**. There will be two seatings for the evening. Between 6:30 and 8:30 pm, chef Tom Kearney is offering a five-course, $55 prix-fixe menu. At the 8:30 seating, the menu is $75. You can look forward to cauliflower soup with an oyster fritter, morel mushroom risotto with fried leeks, Maine lobster with saffron orzo




The Brooklyn Paper file / David Krieger

On New Year's Eve, Park Slope's Tempo (above) will entertain diners with music, party favors and a balloon drop, while Windsor Terrace's Fez (at left) promises a Moroccan feast.

or pan-seared sea scallops with salsify (a root vegetable with a delicate taste similar to oysters) for entrees.

The Farm is known for sophisticated desserts, so count on being delighted with gingerbread cake or a chocolate fondue with figs and pears. Both seatings are invited to the party that begins at 11:30 pm with a DJ and is followed by live music. For those not dining, there's a $20 cover charge that includes unlimited champagne.

Patrik Landberg, the talented chef manning the stove at **Melt** in Park Slope, is offering a sophisticated prix-fixe meal and a late-night party as well. During dinner hours, Landberg's five-course menu for $62 (wine is additional) begins with a wild mushroom filled puff pastry shell with white truffle dip, and proceeds to soup, an appetizer, entree and dessert. There are two to three choices with one vegetarian offering per course.

All the dishes sound delectable, but who could resist lush lobster bisque with a hint of Tahitian vanilla for the soup course, and a Valrhona chocolate souffle cake with whipped cream and fresh berries for dessert?

From 11 pm to 2 am, a DJ will spin tunes. During that time, diners can indulge in an all-you-can-drink (not including top shelf whisky and champagne) open bar for a flat fee of $40.

Downtown Atlantic in Boerum Hill will be ushering in the new year with help from the Carl Thompson and Friends trio which will ease diners into 2008 with their mellow jazz tunes. While you're kicking back, indulge in chef Kurt Sippel's four-course, $75 prix-fixe menu which includes wine. Enjoy a classic shrimp cocktail, roasted rack of lamb and a chocolate banana tart with warm fudge sauce among other American standards.

At DUMBO's **Five Front**, where chef Paul Vicino satisfies diners with gutsy American bistro fare, you can dine, dance, and — if the weather allows — take an after-party stroll to the waterfront for a dazzling view of the Manhattan Bridge.

Vicino's five-course, $85 prix-fixe dinner (add $35 for wine pairing) celebrates the coming year with a glass of champagne and dishes like briny shrimp bisque, herbed gnocchi with lobster "knuckles" and sage brown butter, and grass-fed beef tenderloin with braised short rib ravioli. The band hasn't been selected yet, but Vicino promises "something lively."

You can have a quiet dinner or party till you drop at the **Greenhouse Cafe** in Bay Ridge. From 4 to 8 pm, chef Robert Gonzalez is offering a three-course, prix-fixe dinner with a champagne toast for $35. Diners can enjoy the new American menu with several starters such as fried calamari and penne a la vodka with shrimp, entrees of broiled salmon with champagne dill sauce or veal "Francaise." And for dessert standards done right, try the cheesecake or "brownie overload."

At Greenhouse Cafe's later seatings — 9:30 pm to 10 pm — the same menu is served with an open bar for $75 (not including bottles of champagne). A DJ will spin tunesto dance to. Hosts Bobby Daquara and John Keegan supply late night revelers with noisemakers so expect a rollicking good time.

The dining room at Carroll Gardens mainstay **Marco Polo Ristorante** is always stunning, but on New Year's Eve, it will have more sparkle than ever. Beginning at 8:30 pm, the evening will feature a $125 four-course meal, an open bar, a midnight champagne toast and music from a live DJ. (The meal is just $60 for children younger than 12.) So, while it might be hard not to overindulge on the homemade spinach ravioli with butter-sage sauce and the duck breast salad, keep in mind that the party goes until 2 am, and you'll want to have the energy to dance.

With two seatings — one early and one late — Park Slope's **Tempo Restaurant and Wine Bar** can accommodate your New Year's Eve dinner whether it's the main event or simply a warm up. The early seating, at $59 per person, includes four courses of high-end dishes like sauteed foie gras and Maine lobster, while the second seating is $89 per person and has five courses as well as sparkling wine.

"Our first seating is geared to be an elegant dinner before people leave for wherever they're spending the midnight hour," said owner Robert Amato. "The later dinner is for people staying until midnight to raise a little hell." And with music all night long, midnight party favors and 500 balloons waiting to be dropped, it sounds like quite the party indeed.

Where to GO

NEW YEAR'S DINING GUIDE

CAFE ON CLINTON
268 Clinton St. between Warren and Congress streets in Cobble Hill accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $16-$19. Dinner is served daily. Brunch is available on weekends, from 11 am to 3:30 pm. Subway: F G to Carroll Street. For reservations, call (718) 625-5908. www.cafeonclinton.com.

DOWNTOWN ATLANTIC
346 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $8-$22. The restaurant serves lunch Tuesday through Friday, from noon to 4 pm. Dinner is available Tuesday through Sunday. Brunch is served on weekends, from 11 am to 3 pm. Closed Mondays. Subway: A, C to Hoyt St. For reservations, call (718) 852-9945. www.downtownatlantic.com.

FEZ CAFE
240 Prospect Park West between Windsor Place and Prospect Avenue in Windsor Terrace accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $8-$17. Lunch and dinner are available daily. Brunch is offered on weekends, from 10 am to 3 pm. For reservations, call (718) 369-0716.

FIVE FRONT
5 Front St. near Old Fulton Street in DUMBO accepts American Express, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Bring stub from the Kwik Park parking lot (corner of Front and Dock streets) to the restaurant for validation, and you'll park for $8. Dinner is served Wednesday to Monday. Closed Tuesdays. Brunch is available on weekends, starting at 11 am. Subway: F to York St, A, C to High Street. For more information, call (718) 625-5559. www.fivefrontrestaurant.com.

GREENHOUSE CAFE
7717 Third Ave. between 77th and 78th streets in Bay Ridge accepts American Express, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Three-course nightly prix fixe: $25. A la carte entrees: $16-$30. The restaurant serves lunch Monday through Friday, from 11:30 am to 4 pm. Dinner is served daily, and brunch is offered on Sundays, from noon to 3 pm. Subway: R to 77th Street. Valet parking available. For reservations, call (718) 833-8200. www.greenhousecafe.com.

LAURA'S GOURMET RESTAURANT
1235 Prospect Ave. at Reeve Place in Windsor Terrace accepts American Express Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $9-$23. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. Subway: F to Fort Hamilton Parkway. For reservations, call (718) 436-3715.

LOULOU
222 DeKalb Ave. between Ashland Place and Washington Avenue in Fort Greene accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $13-$19. Dinner is served daily. Brunch is available on weekends, from 11 am to 3 pm. Subway: C to Lafayette Ave., G to Clinton/Washington Street. For reservations, call (718) 246-0633.

MARCO POLO
345 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $14.95-$27.95. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Friday; open from 3 pm to midnight on Saturdays; and from 1 pm to 10 pm on Sundays. Subway: F, G to Carroll Street. For information, call (718) 852-5015 or visit www.marcopoloristorante.com.

MELT
440 Bergen St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope accepts MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $16-$23. The restaurant serves dinner daily and brunch on weekends, from 11 am to 4 pm. Subway: 2, 3 to Bergen Street. For reservations, call (718) 230-5925.

PIETRO'S
8727 Fourth Ave. at 88th Street in Bay Ridge accepts American Express, Diners Club, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $9.95-$19.95. The restaurant serves lunch Monday through Friday, from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Dinner is available daily. Subway: R to 86th Street. For reservations, call (718) 238-8600.

PROVENCE EN BOITE
263 Smith St. at DeGraw Street in Cobble Hill accepts American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $16.50-$28.50. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Closed Mondays. Subway: F to Bergen Street. For reservations, call (718) 797-0707. www.provenceenboite.com.

ROSE WATER
787 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $19-$27. Dinner is served daily. Brunch is available on weekends, from 10 am to 3 pm. Subway: R to Union Street. For reservations, call (718) 783-3800. www.rosewaterrestaurant.com.

TEMPO RESTAURANT & WINE BAR
256 Fifth Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. A three-course, $25 prix-fixe dinner is served Sunday through Thursday and $35 prix fixe is served on Fridays and Saturdays. The restaurant is open daily for dinner. For reservations, call (718) 636-2020 or visit www.tempobrooklyn.com.

THE FARM ON ADDERLEY
1108 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: $11-$19. The restaurant serves lunch Tuesday through Friday, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm and dinner daily. Brunch is available on weekends, from 11 am to 3:30 pm. Subway: F to Ditmas Park. For reservations, call (718) 287-3101. www.thefarmonadderley.com.

ZIPI ZAPE
152 Metropolitan Ave. at Berry Street in Williamsburg accepts MasterCard and Visa. Tapas: $1-$14. Dinner is available Tuesday through Sunday. Closed Mondays. Subway: L to Bedford Avenue. For reservations, call (718) 599-3027.

PARTIES...

Continued from page 7

throwing a New Year's Eve bash sure to top them all. Hairless hipster Moby will be spinning records while, in the side room, Tesley Snipes and Yours Truly perform live. The bar isn't "open," but with at least seven DJs spinning, you might not need to drink to have a blast at this bash.

8 pm at Studio B (259 Banker St. at Calyer Street in Greenpoint). $20 in advance, $25 day of. Subway: G to Nassau Avenue. For information, call (718) 389-1880 or visit www.clubstudiob.com.

In Park Slope

The weather outside may be frightful, but inside **Barbes** New Year's Eve should be delightful. The jazz club will stay warm with the Peruvian party music of resident band Chica Libre. If you didn't get away this holiday season, here's a chance to enjoy a night of Latin heat. From 10:30 pm to 3 am, the band plays warm, cumbia-inspired songs. Don't count on party favors or a sparkling ball dropping, but indulge with an evening of dancing for only $10.

10:30 pm to 3 am at Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). $10. Subway: F to Seventh Avenue. For information, call (718) 965-9177 or visit www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

Early birds can enjoy a five-course tasting menu at **Melt** on New Year's Eve [see "New Year's feast," page 7], but the late-night crowd should show up at 11 pm for a dance party with a DJ, party favors and an open bar. Noisemakers and festive hats will be handed out at the door.

11 pm to 2 am at Melt (440 Bergen St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope). $40. Subway: 2, 3 to Bergen Street. For information, call (718) 230-5925 or visit www.meltnyc.com.

If you're looking for someone to smooch at midnight, the party at **Royale** might be your best bet. The swanky pub will be hosting a five-hour open bar as well as hors d'oeuvres, party favors, go-go dancers and what they claim will be a "handsome crowd."

10 pm to 2 am at Royale (506 Fifth Ave. at Fifth Avenue at 12th Street in Park Slope). $60. Subway: F, M, R to Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street. For information, call (718) 840-0089.

Not to be left out of the fun, **Southpaw** is hosting an all-night dance party with DJ Eleven, DJ Ayres, Cosmo Baker and DJ Sureshot. Snacks and a midnight champagne toast will be served, making this a perfect stop to refuel on a bar crawl down Fifth Avenue.

9 pm to 4 am at Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at St. Marks Place in Park Slope). $40 in advance, $50 day of. Subway: M, R to Union Street. For information, call (718) 555-1212 or visit www.itstherub.com.

In Williamsburg

For something a bit more offbeat, check out Cirque du Sogay, an "electric, queer, rock and roll circus" at **Luna Lounge**. The evening will feature go-go dancers, a champagne toast and performances by rock bands Jen Urban and the Box, Dirty Excuse and Triple Creme. And should one of your resolutions be giving more to charity, take note that a percentage of the cover charge goes to Circus Amok, a performance art troupe.

9:30 pm at Luna Lounge (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg). $15. Subway: L, G to Metropolitan Avenue. For information, call (866) 468-7619 or visit www.lunalounge.com.

It's almost January, but there's nothing quite as satisfying as some good "November Rain." Mr. Brownstone, a Guns 'N Roses cover band, complete with long hair, bandanas and that classic Axl Rose shuffle, will rock in the new year tonight at the **Music Hall of Williamsburg**.

9 pm at the Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). $30. Subway: L to Bedford Avenue. For information, call (212) 260-4700 or visit www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.

It's a rare night when **Galapagos Art Space** isn't having a party, but on New Year's Eve, the programming is extra special. The evening, being billed as "Burlesque-O-Teque," will feature live DJs, a burlesque show, "special surprise guests" and, with a VIP ticket, an open bar until 11:30 pm.

8:30 pm at Galapagos Art Space (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). $30 before midnight, $25 after midnight, $75 for VIP ticket that includes open bar. Subway: L to Bedford Avenue. For information, call (718) 782-5188 or visit www.galapagosartspace.com.


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BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara V. Cowan

BAY RIDGE

The Wicked Monk
8415 Fifth Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0601, www.wickedmonk.com.
Dec. 29: Almost Famous, 9 pm, $5; **Dec. 30:** The Jerry Farley Showcase, 9 pm, $5; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Party with Dog Voices, 10 pm, Free.

BEDFORD-STUYVESANT

Sista's Place
456 Nostrand Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 398-1766, www.sistasplace.org.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve Celebration, Time TBD, $TBD.

BOERUM HILL

Hank's Saloon
46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625-8003, www.exitfive.com/hankssaloon.
Sundays: Sean Kershaw and the New Jack Ramblers, 10 pm, FREE; **Mondays:** Live band kuntry karaoke, 10 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** Live band "Rockstar Karaoke," 9:30 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** Hank's Saloon New Year's Eve with live band kuntry karaoke, raffles, champagne, party favors, singing and dancing, 9 pm, $10.

BRIGHTON BEACH

National Restaurant
273 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton Second Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 646-1225, www.come2national.com.
Saturdays: Live Russian music and dance show, 9 pm, FREE (with $65 prix-fixe dinner); **Fridays:** Live Russian music and dance show, 9 pm, FREE (with $50 prix-fixe dinner); **Sundays:** Live Russian music and dance show, 7 pm, FREE (with $50 prix-fixe dinner).

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Magnetic Field
97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0069, www.magnetictbrooklyn.com.
Dec. 29: The Shaltas, The Hull Monitors, 8 pm, $7; **Dec. 31:** Dead Flowers presents "New Year's Swingin' Eve Blow-Out" featuring The Fleshtones, The Black Hollies, DJ Phast Phreddie, 9 pm, $20; **Jan. 5:** The Miscreants and more, 8 pm, $TBD.

BUSHWICK

Silent Barn
915 Wyckoff Ave. at Hancock Street in Bushwick, No phone.
Jan. 4: Zegota, 8 pm, $TBD.

CLINTON HILL

Five Spot Restaurant
459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.fivespotsoulfood.com.
Saturdays: DJ Aki, 6 pm, FREE; **Mondays:** RPM-Open Turntables hosted by DJ Copa (bring your own needles and vinyl), 8 pm, FREE; **Tuesdays:** Five for Funny Tuesdays hosted by Dave Lester, 10 pm, $5; **Wednesdays:** Open mic with Nate Jones and Da Feel, 9 pm, $5 ($10 after 10 pm); **Dec. 29:** DJ Kenny Parker (legendary DJ for KRS-1), Midnight, $5; **Jan. 5:** Reggae Retro, Midnight, $10.

DUMBO

Five Front
5 Front St. at Old Fulton Street in DUMBO, (718) 625-5599, www.fivefrontrestaurant.com.
Fridays: Live music, 8 pm, FREE.

FLATBUSH

Vox Pop
1022 Cortelyou Rd. at Stratford Road in Flatbush, (718) 940-2084, www.voxpopnet.net.
Sundays: Open mic, 7 pm, FREE with two-drink/snack minimum; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Party hosted by Tom Barr and Donald Ducote.

FORT GREENE

BAMCafe
30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org.
Dec. 29: Letha Francis and Anthony Dixon, 9 pm, FREE.

Night of the Cookers
767 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 797-1197.
Saturdays: Live jazz, 10 pm, FREE; **Thursdays:** Live jazz, 8 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** Live jazz, 10 pm, FREE.



A whale of a time: Superstar DJ and performer Moby, above, will be spinning records at the New Year's Eve bash at Greenpoint hotspot Studio B, where parties are known to rage well into the morning.

GOWANUS

Issue Project Room
232 Third St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 330-0313, www.issueprojectroom.org.
Jan. 3: Tony Conrad, M.V. Carbon, 8 pm, $10; **Jan. 4:** Issue Project Room's Theremin Society featuring Rob Schwimmer, David Simons, Dorit Chrysler, Scott Burland and Frank Schultz, 8 pm, $10; **Jan. 5:** MV, EE, 8 pm, $10.

GREENPOINT

Club Europa
98 Meserole Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5723, www.europaclub.com.
Saturdays: VIP Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE before 10:30 pm, $15 after 10:30 pm; **Tuesdays:** Karaoke Night, 8 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** Sexy progressive dance party, 10 pm, FREE before 10:30 pm, $15 after 10:30 pm; **Dec. 29:** Clockcleaner with Blues Control, 7 pm, $10.

Studio B
259 Banker St. at Calyer Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-1880, www.clubstudiob.com.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve celebration with Slick Rick the Ruler, Kudu, DJ sets by Moby, Frankie Bones, Holy Ghost, Jacques Renault, The Bangers, Eamon Harkin, (Side room) King Stampede and Boundless NY present "If It Ain't Rough, It Ain't Right!" with Tesley Snipes & Yours Truly and DJs Teddy King, Pete Leonard and special guest, 8 pm, $20 in advance, $25 day of the show.

GREENWOOD HEIGHTS

Kitchen Bar
687 Sixth Ave. at 20th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 499-5623, www.kitchenbarny.com.
Thursdays: Live music, 8:30 pm, FREE.

Living Room Lounge
245 23rd St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights, (718) 499-1505, www.myspace.com/livingroombrooklyn.
Saturdays: DJ Kurt, 8 pm, FREE; **Sundays:** Guitar Hero, 8 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** Open mic night, 8 pm, FREE; **Thursdays:** '80s Music, 8 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** Wasabassco burlesque show, 9 pm, $5.

PARK SLOPE

Barbes
376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com.
Tuesdays: Slavic Soul Party, 9 pm, $10; **Dec. 29:** The Woes, 8 pm, $10 suggested donation, Rob Curto's Forro for All, 10 pm, $10 suggested donation; **Dec. 30:** Flutterbox, 7 pm, $10 suggested donation, Stephane Wrembel, 9 pm, $10 suggested donation; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve with Chicha Libre, 10 pm, $10; **Jan. 1:** Jenny Scheinman, 7 pm, $10 suggested donation; **Jan. 2:** Tony Malaby's Cello Trio, 8 pm, 10 pm, $10 per set; **Jan. 3:** Matt Darriau's Yo Lateeff, 8 pm, $10 suggested donation, Rachalle Garniez, 10 pm, $10 suggested donation; **Jan. 4:** Shane Endsley Post Holiday Trio, 8 pm, $10 suggested donation, Zemog el Gallo Bueno, 10 pm, $10; **Jan. 5:** Jim Campilongo Electric Trio, 8 pm, $10 suggested donation, Howard Fishman, 10 pm, $10 suggested donation.

Bogota Latin Bistro
141 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-3805, www.bogotabistro.com.
Wednesdays, Thursdays: Live music, 7 pm, FREE.

Brooklyn Lyceum
227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816, www.brooklynlyceum.com.
Dec. 30: "Jazz on Sundays" featuring Craig Yaremko, 9 pm, 10:30 pm, $10 per set.

Cafe Steinhof
427 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 369-7776, www.cafesteinhof.com.
Wednesdays: Live music, 10:30 pm, FREE.

Melt
440 Bergen St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 230-5925.
Fridays: "Stuck in the '80s" party featuring DJs Paul EZ and Jan Cooley, 11 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Dance Party, 11 pm, $TBD.

Patio Lounge
179 Fifth Ave. at Degraw Street in Park Slope, (646) 810-1916, www.patiolounge.com.
Mondays: "Laugh Out Loud" Mondays, 8 pm, FREE; **Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays:** Dance party, 9 pm, FREE.

Royale
506 Fifth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 840-0089.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve party with open bar, 10 pm, $60.

Southpaw
125 Fifth Ave. at St. Johns Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236, www.spsounds.com.
Dec. 29: Cold Hands, Wild Things, The Scene, The First Third, Greg Smith & The Broken English, 8 pm, $TBD; **Dec. 30:** Papa Grows Funk, The Second Step, 9 pm, $15 in advance, $15 day of the show; **Dec. 31:** "It's New Year's Eve with The Rub" featuring DJs Ayres, Eleven, and Cosmo Baker with special guest DJ Sureshot, 9 pm, $40 in advance, $50 day of the show; **Jan. 3:** Todd Carlstrom and The Clamour, Wolf and Wayside and special guests, 9 pm, $TBD.

Tea Lounge
837 Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 789-2762, www.tealoungeny.com.
Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: Live music, 9 pm, $5 suggested donation.

Two Boots Brooklyn
514 Second St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-3253, www.twobootsbrooklyn.com.
Dec. 29: The Lascivious Biddies, 10 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** The Barbarians, 10 pm, FREE; **Jan. 4:** Bill Malchow & The Go-Cup Allstars, 10 pm, FREE; **Jan. 5:** Heather & The Barbarians, 10 pm, FREE.

Union Hall
(Downstairs at) 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com.
Dec. 29: A fundraiser for Eberth Mann with The Forms, Graham Smith and more, 8 pm, $10; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve at Union Hall with Dick Swizzle's Karaoke Club and DJ Jennie Wasserman, 8 pm, $10; **Jan. 3:** Boy Genius, Charles Atlas, Vitamin-D, 8 pm, $6; **Jan. 4:** Bridges and Powerlines, The Great Lakes, Rachel Lipson, 8 pm, $7; **Jan. 5:** These United States, 8 pm, $8.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS

The Backroom
(At Freddy's) 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.freddysbackroom.com.
Dec. 29: Andy Friedman & The Other Failures, 9 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Party with Pocket Monster, 10 pm, The Red Barbers, 11:30 pm, El Camino, 12:30 am, FREE.

RED HOOK

Hope and Anchor
347 Van Brunt St. at Wolcott Street in Red Hook, (718) 237-0276.
Thursdays: Karaoke hosted by Dropsy Dozzman, 9 pm, FREE; **Fridays, Saturdays:** Karaoke hosted by drag queen Kay Sera, 9 pm, FREE.

Rocky Sullivan's
34 Van Dyke St. at Dwight Street in Red Hook, (718) 246-1793.
Saturdays: Seanchai and The Unity Squad, 9 pm, FREE; **Mondays:** The Trad Sounds of Chris Byrne and Andrew Harkin, 8:30 pm, FREE; **Tuesdays:** Live Jazz, 7 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** Soul night with Sugartime, 9 pm, FREE; **Thursdays:** Pub Quiz with host Scott M.X. Turner, 8:30 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve, 9 pm, FREE.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

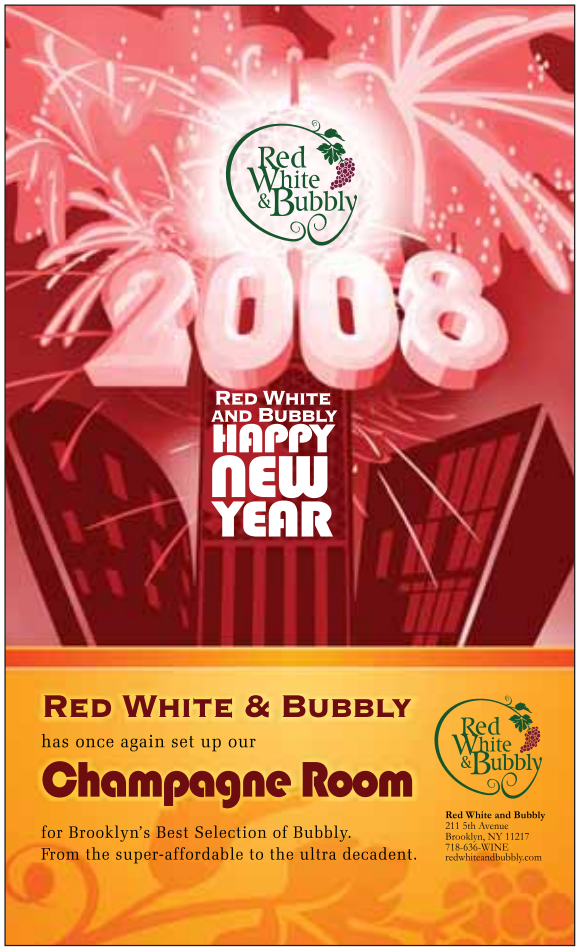
Anyway Cafe
1602 Gravesend Neck Rd. at East 16th Street in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 934-5988, www.anywaycafe.com.

See **NIGHTLIFE** on page 10

TALK TO US...

To list your events in **Brooklyn Nightlife**, please give us as much notice as possible. Include name of venue, address with cross street, phone number for the public to call, Web site address, dates, times and admission or ticket prices. Send listings and color photos of performers via e-mail to Nightlife@BrooklynPaper.com or via fax at (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

The listings are correct as of press time. Contact the venue before you go to confirm event details.



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NIGHTLIFE...

Continued from page 9

Saturdays: Grace Garland, 8 pm, FREE; **Mondays:** Open mic, 9 pm, FREE; **Tuesdays:** Andrey Ryabov, 9 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** Grace Garland, 9 pm, FREE; **Thursdays:** Susan Tobocman, 9 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** Eric Nicholas, 9 pm, FREE.

Crossroads Saloon
2079 Coney Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 339-9393.
Fridays: Karaoke, 10:30 pm, FREE.

WILLIAMSBURG

Black Betty
366 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-0243, www.blackbetty.net.
Saturdays: DJ Emskee and G Man the MC present the "Make Love, Not War" party, 11 pm, FREE; **Sundays:** Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Marquand and DJ Greg Caz, 10 pm, FREE; **Mondays:** Rev. Vince Anderson and his Love Choir, 10:30 pm, FREE; **Tuesdays:** Hotrocks, 10 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** The Greenhouse with DJ MonkOne and DJs Emskee and MC G-man, 11 pm, FREE.

The Callbox
148 Kingsland Ave. at Lombardy Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-0179, www.thecallboxlounge.com.
Saturdays: Seductive Saturdays with DJ Jose, 11 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** '80s party with The Airwaves, 9 pm, FREE; **Fridays:** Dance music all night, 9 pm, FREE.

Galapagos
70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosartspace.com.
Saturdays: (Backroom) Larry Tee presents "Dizzy" with Earl Dax and Kevin Graves, 11 pm, $5; **Fridays:** VJ/DJ Friday Nights, 10 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** (Backroom) The Bunker presents Blood & Thunder II, "18 Hours of Mayhem" featuring Lee Curtiss, Derek Plaslaiko, Dennis Rodgers, Spinoza Laimur, Agha Naudio, 10 pm, $TBD, (Front room) Burlesque-O-Teque starring Trixie Little and the Evil Hate Monkey, Dr. Lukki, Little Brooklyn, Darlinda Just Darlinda, Nasty Canasta, Jonny Porkpie, go-go- dancers, surprise, late night with Miss Saturn and DJ Boyracer, 8 pm, $75 (admission and open bar until 11:30 pm), $30 (admission until midnight), $25 (admission after midnight); **Jan. 5:** Vicious Vaudeville, an evil burlesque show, 9 pm, $TBD.

Laila Lounge
113 N. Seventh St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 486-6791, www.lailalounge.com.
Wednesdays: Jezebel Music Showcase with an open mic, 7:30 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve party, 9 pm, $TBD.

The Lucky Cat
245 Grand St. at Roebling Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-0437, www.theluckycat.com.
Dec. 29: Holiday celebration hosted by Sonny Oaks & Freddy Frogs, 10 pm, $TBD; **Dec. 31:** Sharegroove NYE Celebration, 9 pm, $TBD.

Luna Lounge
361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (212) 260-2323, www.lunalounge.com.
Dec. 29: Gutz, 7:30 pm, The MiddleMen, 8:30 pm, Montagna & The Mouth-to-Mouth, 9:30 pm, Bazooka Falcon, 10:30 pm, Kin, 11:30 pm, $8; **Dec. 30:** Smooth Medusa, 7:30 pm, Bugs in the Dark, 8:30 pm, The Suicide Dolls, 9:30 pm, $8; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve Cirque du Sogay presents an electric queer rock-n-roll circus featuring Electric Fiction, 9 pm, Dirty Excuse, 9:30 pm, Hooray for Goodbye, 10:30 pm, Triple Creme, 11 pm, Jen Urban and the Box, 1:30 am, $15; **Jan. 2:** Magic Tricks, 7:30 pm, Proud Simon, 8:30 pm, Bryan Baker and the Voluntary Villains, 9:30 pm, Hype of the States, 10:30 pm, $8; **Jan. 3:** SmilePrettyMisery, 8:30 pm, HTR, 9:30 pm, $8; **Jan. 4:** March of the Saints, 7:30 pm, The Brother Kite, 8:30 pm, Holler, Wild Rosel, 9:30 pm, $10; **Jan. 5:** The Flying Eyes, 7:30 pm, Duelists, 8:30 pm, Bob Muir & The Enemy Below, 9:30 pm, The Dance Party, 10:30 pm, Re Re Rasputin, 11:30 pm, $8.

Music Hall of Williamsburg
66 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (212) 260-4700, www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.
Dec. 31: New Year's Eve with Mr. Brownstone, a tribute to Guns N' Roses, 9 pm, $30 in advance, $30 day of the show.

Pete's Candy Store
709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770, www.petescandystore.com.
Sundays: Open mic, 5 pm-8 pm, Matty Charles, 8:30 pm, FREE; **Tuesdays:** Bingo, 7 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** Quizz-Off, 7:30 pm, FREE; **Dec. 29:** Golden Birds, 8 pm, Katie Mullins, 9 pm, Fulton Lights, 10 pm, The Shivers, 11 pm, FREE; **Dec. 30:** Doug Cullen, 9:30 pm, TwentyFourThousandDollars, 10:30 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** Special surprise guests, 9:30 pm, The Prenups, 11:45 pm, FREE.

Sound Fix Lounge
110 Bedford Ave. at North 11th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 388-8090, www.soundfixrecords.com.
Dec. 29: DJ Mark Ryan, 11 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve celebration, 8 pm, $TBD; **Jan. 1:** Music Trivia, 8 pm, FREE; **Jan. 2:** DJ Johnny, 10 pm, FREE; **Jan. 3:** DJ D Redgrave, Heartbreaker DJ, Miss Jurgen, 10 pm, FREE; **Jan. 5:** DJ Mark Ryan, 11 pm, FREE.

Stain
766 Grand St. at Humboldt Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-7840, www.stainbar.com.
Mondays: "Creative Juice," 6:30 pm, FREE; **Wednesdays:** "JAMstain," an informal open mic hosted by singers/songwriters, 9 pm, FREE; **Dec. 29:** Band of Black Gypsies, 10 pm, FREE; **Dec. 30:** Lineup of singer/songwriters, 8 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** The End of Prohibition, 8 pm, FREE.

Trash Bar
256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000, www.thetrashbar.com.
Dec. 29: Mr. Marbles, 8 pm, Los Diablos Charcoales, 9 pm, Bull Dozer, 10 pm, Fighting Cocks, 11 pm, One Last Shot, Midnight, $7; **Dec. 30:** The Stevedores, 9 pm, Roots Rock Rebel, 10 pm, Zodiac, 11 pm, $6; **Dec. 31:** Fifty Habit, 8:45 pm, The Gulf of Michigan, 10:45 pm, Fixer, 11:45 pm, $7; **Jan. 2:** Counter Vision, 8 pm, Paper Tongue, 9 pm, Charetta, 10 pm, Empire State Troopers, 11 pm, Complicated Shirt, Midnight, $6; **Jan. 4:** Schocholautte, 8 pm, The Woolgathering, 9 pm, The Big Big Bucks, 10 pm, 3D Glasses, 11 pm, Nate X 10, Midnight, $7; **Jan. 5:** The Erase-hers, 8 pm, The Sweet Ones, 10 pm, East Coast Scammers, Midnight, $7.

Union Pool
484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484, www.myspace.com/unionpool.
Dec. 29: Late Night Backroom Party with DJ Alfreako, Midnight, FREE; **Dec. 31:** New Year's Eve at Union Pool, 8 pm, $TBD.

Williamsburg Music Center
367 Bedford Ave. at South Fifth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-1654.
Sundays: Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber with Greg Tate, 8 pm, 11 pm, $7; **Jan. 1:** Open mic and jam session, 10 pm, $10; **Jan. 4:** "Wloomen," words and movement of women, Open mic/jam session, 10 pm, $10.

Zebulon
258 Wythe Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 218-6934, www.zebuloncafeconcert.com.
Dec. 29: Janel and Anthony, 8 pm, Meta and the Cornerstone, 10 pm, FREE; **Dec. 30:** Kenny Wollesen Special Project, 10 pm, FREE; **Dec. 31:** Happy New Year with Baye Kouyate et Les Tougarakes, 10 pm, FREE.

The Brooklyn Paper
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Smartmom's Xmas

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

It was like Rockefeller Center in Smartmom's apartment last week. The Oh So Feisty One kept bringing her friends in and out of the apartment to see the tree.

She and her friends just sat on the green leather couch and stared as if intoxicated by the white lights and the glittery gold ornaments.

Even Teen Spirit said it was a nice tree. So did Hepcat. Grudgingly. He was still mourning the fact that they spent Christmas in Brooklyn for the third year in a row rather than in California. But he came around.

Here's how they got such a great tree: Two Saturdays ago, when it started to snow, Smartmom, OSFO and Hepcat went out in search of a tree. What a perfect time to shop. It was 10 pm in the wet, slushy snow.

The three of them (and Teen Spirit in spirit) sloshed down Seventh Avenue to browse trees first at the Apple Tree then at the Key Food. They even went to the Food Co-op to see if those "organic" trees were still there, but no go.

Back at the Apple Tree on Garfield, OSFO fell in love with a short, squat tree at and they made a split-second decision to buy it.

Forty-five dollars later, they were lugging the tree back to Third Street. Smartmom hoped they wouldn't run into any of their Jewish friends — she'd have some explaining to do.

"It's our inter-faith Christmas tree, we'll decorate it with Jewish stars," she would have said. But truthfully, Smartmom felt no shame about having a tree because as an inter-faith family Christmas and Hanukah are both meaningful.

And since deciding to do Christmas in Brooklyn, it felt perfectly right to have a tree. Besides, it gave them somewhere to put the presents.

Once home, they decided to put the tree in the living room and just admire and inhale its luscious aroma. They didn't even decorate it.

Actually Hepcat found it so fragrant, he had to open the window because it was making him sneeze.

But it didn't make Smartmom sneeze. It made her think of moonlight in Vermont and the Christmas scene in "Fanny and Alexander" and the Bing Crosby movies "White Christmas" and "Holiday Inn."

It made her think of Christmas on the farm in Northern California where Artsy Grandma decorates a live tree with timeless ornaments — some homemade, some vintage glass ones from the 1950s and '60s.

Smartmom's living room seemed so much smaller with the tree in it. She had to disassemble the Noguchi coffee table and rearrange the furniture. The tree took over.

Diaper Diva and Ducky came over to help decorate it. Diaper Diva is a pro at decorating. And so is 3-year-old Ducky, who delighted in selecting ornaments and finding a spot for them on the tree. Hepcat strung the lights. OSFO put candy canes everywhere.

When they were done, they all just looked at the tree and sighed. It really was gorgeous.

Smartmom liked to stare at it as she sat on the green couch in a state of reverie that really had very little to do with the birth of Jesus and more to do with how damn pretty that tree looked in her living room.

Truthfully, it surprised her how much she loved that tree. In the past, her trees were a cut above Charlie Brown's. She was sure that Hepcat was disappointed. But this year's tree was wonderful — maybe because Smartmom was finally comfortable with the decision to spend Christmas in Brooklyn and make their own traditions here.

It looked perfect in their living room because it was theirs.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn" and is the keeper of the Park Slope 100.



Dennis Adler

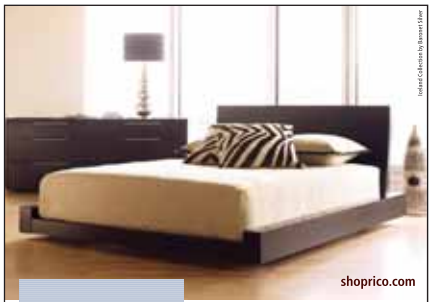
A very Marty holiday

Once again, Borough President Markowitz's Christmas card was the best to land in our "In" box (that pile of mail near the linotype machine). So for our third consecutive year, here's our exclusive analysis of all the hidden imagery in the elaborate artwork, including at least one reference to Markowitz's nascent mayoral bid:

1. **The tornado:** Obviously a reference to the Aug. 8 twister that hit Bay Ridge — but could it also be a reference to the winds of change that "Mayor Marty Markowitz" could bring?
2. **Menorah truck:** A reference to Markowitz's ambitious "free menorah delivery" initiative — which would be the law of the land if the City Council would only approve it already! Come on, Council — get moving! There are thousands of Brooklyn households in dire need of a menorah.
3. **Two Santas:** A possible indication of Markowitz's support for John Edwards, who is often referring to the "two Americas" during his presidential campaign.
4. **Markowitz's parrot, Beep:** The bird appears to be trying to enter a neighbor's apartment — an indication that he doesn't see much chance of moving to Gracie Mansion?
5. **Guy with comb-over:** The suit-wearing, briefcase-toting bald man looks a bit like Hair Club for Men President Sy Sperling. Yet Marty has a full head of hair — or maybe he's trying to tell us something!



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THE YEAR 2007 IN REVIEW

CONEY ISLAND'S WILD RIDE

Since Mayor Bloomberg announced on Nov. 8 that he wanted to protect the core of Coney Island's amusement district — where the Cyclone races, the Wonder Wheel spins and the Shoot the Freak shoots — Coney Island's future has hung in the balance. Bloomberg's bombshell announcement that Coney Island's beleaguered (and small) amusement area would be reborn with new rides, attractions and hotels pretty much dismissed the neighborhood's principle landowner, Joe Sitt — even though Sitt's $2-billion "Las Vegas on the Boardwalk" included many of the same elements as the mayor's plan. Whose plan is better? We invited both sides — a Bloomberg supporter and a Sitt supporter — to weigh in.

Bloomberg's plan is saving amusements



BY DICK ZIGUN

They call me "the Mayor of Coney Island," but I am not a real politician, I just play one on TV. I'm the guy in the straw hat banging the drum at the front of my Mermaid Parade. I'm an arts guy and pretty good at it, but I have absolutely no political ambitions.

In a momentary lapse of good judgment, Coney Island's real mayor, Michael Bloomberg, appointed me to the Coney Island Development Corporation. For the record, I voted against Bloomberg twice, but like many New Yorkers, I have come to admire his competence.

As a CIDC board member, I am frequently bored or frustrated out of my mind. But I respect the CIDC's main accomplishment to-date: the creation of a Strategic Plan that serves as a road map and grand vision for reviving our playland and beach.

While hardly the Zigun Plan, the Strategic Plan had balance and merit, and before real-estate politics got in the way, it had the support of pretty much everyone. The artful compromise calls for revitalizing a shrunken amusement park core with an outer band of residential housing sitting atop ground-floor entertainment retail. All agreed that it was just the right balance.

But then Thor Equities purchased most of the designated amusement park core and tried to renegotiate the compromise. Now, all hell is breaking loose!

The other night I got a taste of real Brooklyn politics when a state Senator — who doesn't even represent Coney Island — bused in hundreds of protesters in day-glow lime caps to bully our attempt at a public meeting. The state Senator scared me, and I've been laying low for four weeks.

In the 25 years of playing Coney Island's fictional mayor, I've tried hard to be an honest — if quirky — spokesman for the amusement businesses.

But since most of that constituency has recently sold its property, I'm free to speak my own mind and tell the truth as much as possible. And from that viewpoint, I can tell you this: Thor's plan is a disaster for the amusement park and the mayor's plan, while flawed, is fascinating.

Bloomberg is the true amusement park advocate — by a landslide! The Thor plan would severely marginalize the impact of the ride experience. Sure, there are a few rides in that plan, but there is no longer a "core" and without enough ride acreage, Coney is out of balance and no longer the world's playground.

In the opposite corner, the mayor boldly confronts Thor's ownership of the core by creating a permanent ride zone — in perpetuity — by designating the area as parkland. Mayor Bloomberg's plan imagines a forever-protected, Tivoli Gardens–like Coney Island for the 21st century.

While the Mayor's proposal has strayed somewhat from the commitment to include entertainment on the ground floor under the new housing, it is friendly to historic preservation and to the legacy of Coney Island. It needs off-site parking and the return of the Surf Avenue trolley, but I believe we can fine-tune it.

Amusement park advocates should stand and applaud this a bold and innovative city plan. Hell, man, this is Brooklyn; bring your 300 loudest friends in matching tie-dye hats to our next public meeting on Jan. 7.

Because at the end of the day, the elected officials who actually do represent Coney Island are going to make decisions that will affect it for decades.

Dick Zigun is the founder of Coney Island USA, which runs the Mermaid Parade and the Coney Island Circus Sideshow.

SMACK DOWN

Thor's plan is the best for the beach



BY DIGNA RODRIGUEZ

When Thor Equities began its quest to revitalize Coney Island five years ago, our goal was simple: we wanted to give residents of this iconic neighborhood, and the hundreds of thousands of visitors who stop by each year the opportunity to experience this treasured slice of New York, a rejuvenated area with year-round amusements, and retail and entertainment venues. We wanted to return Coney to its heralded status as "America's Playground." And we wanted to achieve this goal immediately.

Anyone would be hard-pressed to find a single soul who believes Coney doesn't deserve better than a place that hasn't changed much since "The Warriors" was filmed nearly 30 years ago. For eight months out of 12, Coney Island is a desolate and bleak reminder of a dark era in our city's past. Shops are closed, people are sparse and a generally gloomy sensation pervades the area.

Not only has research shown us the near-unanimity of Coney residents' desire to remake the neighborhood, I've seen it personally. I've seen it on beautiful, sunny days, when couples have to dodge gaping holes in our once-historic Boardwalk in order to take an ocean-side stroll. I've seen it in children's faces, when all they're greeted with on Stillwell Avenue after Labor Day is metal gates infested with graffiti. I've seen it in tourists who visit during the summer and seem to wonder, "Is this it?"

Keeping that in mind, we came up with a comprehensive plan that would please both residents and visitors — an 11-acre site that will be the home to eye popping, jaw dropping year-round amusements and experiences, a place to make memories, a place almost triple the size of the legendry Astroland Park. To ensure Coney Island becomes a vibrant year-round entertainment destination, we added hotels, entertainment venues, restaurants, and retail attractions. Very few people know that South Brooklyn, with 1.3 million residents, would be the sixth largest city in the United States. Yet, South Brooklyn residents are shortchanged when it comes to basic retail amentities our plan would provide. Finally, we developed a plan that could get underway in a matter of months, and that taxpayers could afford.

Realizing that no plan is perfect, we listened and learned from the community, adjusting our proposal numerous times based on their suggestions and concerns. We scrapped condominiums from the plan, reduced heights of some buildings and allowed for even more amusements and games than originally planned.

But we feel that two elements of our plan cannot be altered in any incarnation. To have any chance of reaching Coney Island's full potential, any revitalization must be year-round and must be completed in a timely fashion. If either of those two building blocks fails to materialize, we will be left with the same dilapidated conditions for far too long followed by a new Coney Island the falls far short of the neighborhood's dreams.

To be clear, as the largest landowner in the amusement area, we continue to be committed to working with anyone — whether that be the city, the community or anyone with a love for Coney Island — who is dedicated to a shining new day for the neighborhood.

So there's no confusion, we firmly believe that Mayor Bloomberg and his team are as committed as we are to transforming Coney Island into a true jewel in the crown of New York City.

We remain hopeful to work together with the city, community and local leaders to thoroughly but expeditiously build a revitalized, year-round Coney Island.

Digna Rodriguez is the director of Community Development for Thor Equities.

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THE YEAR **2007** IN REVIEW

The state of his borough

Marty sits down for his annual chat with The Brooklyn Paper



The Brooklyn Paper / Julia Rosenberg

Sit down: Beep Markowitz in his annual year-end interview with The Brooklyn Paper.

He'd make a great mayor. He still loves Atlantic Yards. His city pension won't cover his living expenses if he ever retires. And he will go to the mattresses to oppose tolls on the East River bridges.

Those are the blockbuster moments from what has become a beloved Brooklyn Paper tradition: our annual year-end interview with Borough President Markowitz.

Last week, our editor, Gersh Kuntzman, checked in with the irrepressible Beep to recap the year that was (though, alas, Markowitz kept last year's temper in check, much to the chagrin of our headline writer!).

Here's a lightly edited transcript of the interview. Enjoy!

http:/// Listen to the unedited interview at BrooklynPaper.com

Gersh Kuntzman: As you know, it's become a great tradition for our readers — they like a year-end synopsis from the man himself. … Let's start with the broad vision. What were the three best things that happened to Brooklyn this year and why?

Marty Markowitz: One thing I can't take credit for was the first baby walrus born [at the New York Aquarium in Coney Island].

GK: You can't?!

MM: No. I can't take credit for this, but it's a great thing. … The Cyclones once again, after a number of seasons in which I had to hold my head down in shame, defeated the Staten Island Yankees. That was good for Brooklyn. And the third biggest thing, in my humble opinion, was the Floating Pool. … It certainly made a statement about the future of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

In terms of affordable housing, we're having more affordable housing units built between 2007 and 2008 than we've had in a generation. … And holding onto Starrett City as an affordable housing development … bodes well. We still have far more to do, but we're well on the road to at least ensuring … that Brooklyn remains economically and ethnically diverse.



The Brooklyn Paper / Julia Rosenberg

I'm happy to say that the relationship I have with the mayor and his commissioners allows me to at least be welcomed into the corridors of government. Though the powers of the borough president are modest, nonetheless I try to leverage what I've got so that when it comes to services, Brooklyn is not in the shadows. Whatever we get is not enough, but we are getting the respect we deserve, at least on affordable housing.

Lonely Planet naming Brooklyn as a must-see tourist spot with New Orleans and Hawaii, certainly was an exciting thing for Brooklyn. … Tourism is off the charts this year. It's a result, very directly, of this office being involved. We go to all the tourism conventions, all year long. We're bringing in bus operators and hotel concierges, travel writers. We very aggressively go after that market. It's good for Brooklyn. …

The Downtown Brooklyn development is going very positively. I was at the Hotel Indigo event [on Duffield Street last week], which is an exciting concept. We all heard about Morton's [steakhouse]. … We're thrilled for people who enjoy that.

GK: You don't enjoy that?!

MM: I don't go to Morton's and I don't go to Peter Luger. I love Peter Luger, but I'm not a steak eater. I do eat meat, but not steak. … Peter Luger will always be the most unique steak restaurant in America. But Morton's will be welcome and do excellent business here. …

We're still trying to attract a Nordstrom. I have a full court press in trying to do that. … That whole corridor of Atlantic Yards, the Brooklyn Academy of Music area and Downtown will link Down town Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn. [Downtown Brooklyn Partnership President] Joe Chan and his group — and me, too — are always pitching businesses to relocate here. You'll be surprised what you'll hear soon.

And on Court Street. It's a big thing that Steve Green, the biggest office space manager in Manhattan, bought his first building on Court Street [16 Court St.]. That's a good thing for the Court Street corridor, where the buildings here have not kept pace with modern business needs. …

But we're also very supportive of downzonings [in residential neighborhoods] to preserve the contextual feeling of a community. But there are other areas, such as Atlantic Avenue, that are very appropriate for growth. …

City infrastructure has to keep pace … but Brooklyn has to grow. … Even now, even with the housing market cooling down all over the country … it's still going gangbusters. That's good, because it shows the economic strength of Brooklyn. But it's bad because it makes it more difficult for people who aren't wealthy, but want to buy something, like yours truly. That's why I require a minimum of 20 percent affordability before I approve a project. That's my way of making a contribution. …

I'm also proud that [we helped fund] a program at Marcus Garvey Senior Houses to be the first affordable assisted-living project, which, now that I'm 62, you begin, ever so tenderly, to think about.

GK: Affordable housing? Don't you have a city pension?

MM: My city pension, believe me, I'll still have to have a job [after being term-limited as borough president in 2009]. Believe me, what I'm going to earn on my city pension will not pay my rent. That's true by the way.

GK: What are three things that happened in Brooklyn this year — not necessarily things you should be blamed for — but stuff that happened in Brooklyn that you wish had *not* and why?

MM: Even The Brooklyn Paper can't accuse me of causing the tornado.

GK: We looked for an angle, but we couldn't find it!

MM: I'll bet you *did* look for an angle. But also Pfizer leaving [its longtime home in Bushwick] was not a good thing. I understand that the future of the site will be affordable housing, which is greatly needed, but the fact that Pfizer, born in Brooklyn, is leaving its home is [sad]. …

GK: A major issue for Brooklyn is the mayor's congestion pricing plan. You oppose East River bridge tolls, but you have also said some positive things about the larger congestion-pricing plan. Can you talk about where you are?

MM: I am open to the possibility of congestion pricing because I recognize the need to cut the pollution and mitigate the traffic in the central business district of Manhattan. … But it shouldn't be on the back of any particular area of New York City. It's a regional issue. Every report shows that the majority of cars coming into Manhattan are from suburban areas. The plan that is being presented does not pe-

See ***MARTY*** *on page* 13



The Brooklyn Paper / Julia Rosenberg

The year in Marty

By Adam F. Hutton
The Brooklyn Paper

It was a banner year for Borough President Markowitz. He played a role in attracting Trader Joe's to Atlantic Avenue, got to flirt with the idea of running for mayor, and even insulted Robert Redford and the gay community. Love him or love him even more, Markowitz sure isn't boring. So here it is: the year in Marty!

JANUARY

The cookie crumbles?: Markowitz didn't use a Magic-8 ball to predict whether he would run for mayor in 2009. Instead, he stopped his State of the Borough address to crack open a Chinese cookie and read the contents: "If it's good for Brooklyn, it's good for New York City." With Markowitz *still* undecided, the Department of Investigation begins a probe into the maker of the fraudulent fortune cookie.

FEBRUARY

When he's 62: On Feb. 14, Markowitz turned 62, making him officially eligible for Social Security and full-fledged membership in AARP. Now that he's a senior citizen, we expect lots of self-deprecating remarks about his age. But they won't be as funny as those jokes about his weight and his height. Those never get old.

MARCH

Marty loves Bruce, Part I: After weeks of silence on the controversy over Bruce Ratner's naming-rights deal with slavery-linked Barclays Bank, Markowitz told a constituent that "many institutions with long histories … have had dealings that run counter to the values of all who hold human rights dear."

APRIL

Jailhouse shop: Markowitz suggests that Trader Joe's would be an excellent tenant in a newly created retail space at the soon-to-reopen House of Detention on Atlantic Avenue. The California-based grocer later settles on a site a few blocks away, ending inmates' dreams of smuggling bottles of Two-Buck Chuck through the bars.

MAY

All ashore: Markowitz took a six-day tourism-generating business trip (free cruise) on the Queen Mary 2, which started docking in Red Hook this year. Most folks shell out $10,000 for a trip on the world's largest passenger ship, but Marty got a free ride in exchange for giving three lectures to would-be Brooklyn tourists and having "informal onboard interactions" with passengers. Never has shuffleboard on the Lido deck been so educational!

JUNE

Marty and Sundance: Markowitz looks like Robert Redford in the same way that Dom DeLouise resembles Burt Reynolds — but that didn't stop the Beep from making the comparison when the Oscar winner was in town. "People tell me all the time that I look like Robert Redford," Markowitz said. No one has ever told Redford he looks like Markowitz — ever.

Marty 'n' Bloomy sittin' in a tree: Mayor Bloomberg opened his Upper East Side mansion to Markowitz boosters for a fundraiser that netted the on-again-off-again mayoral hopeful $250,000 — enough to pay for 25 rides on the Queen Mary 2.



Stephen Lipuma

Gay old time: Markowitz poses for the photo of the year, inviting drag queens to Borough Hall for a gay pride event. It's a great photo — and it really came in handy later in the year when Markowitz snubbed gay activists by endorsing an anti-gay former City Councilman for judge.

JULY

Shop steward: After landing Trader Joe's, Markowitz started focusing on getting the swanky Nordstrom department store to Downtown Brooklyn. We think it would be perfect on the Fulton Mall — right next to Cellular Island and Jimmy Jazz.

AUGUST

High anxiety: Markowitz objects to developer David Walentas's plan for an apartment building that would be 10 feet taller the 50-foot height limit of the Cobble Hill Historic District. Markowitz, who had no problem with the 16 skyscrapers of Atlantic Yards, said the 60-foot building would set a "dangerous precedent."

SEPTEMBER

Gays say no to Noach: Markowitz loses his substantial gay support by endorsing Noach Dear for Civil Court. The former city councilman made a career out of baiting homosexuals with inflammatory anti-gay rhetoric. "We now regard him with universal disdain," said one prominent gay activist. But Dear won the election anyway.

OCTOBER

Italian for a day: We're not certain about the national origin of the name "Markowitz," but we're pretty sure it ain't Italian. But the Beep didn't let that stand in his way as he led Brooklyn's Columbus Day parade. Hey, we know for sure he loves Italian food. That should count for something.

NOVEMBER

Marty loves Bruce, Part II: Markowitz minimizes some activists' concern that Bruce Ratner's glass-walled Atlantic Yards arena would be a terror target. "I am confident that Forest City Ratner is taking the proper steps in working with the NYPD … in ensuring the project adheres to the highest standards of safety," he said.

DECEMBER

Disgruntled ex: A former Borough Hall staffer sues Markowitz, claiming she was discriminated against on the "basis of her age and gender." The Beep's office called the claims "unfounded," adding that the former worker is just a disgruntled former employee who got fired.



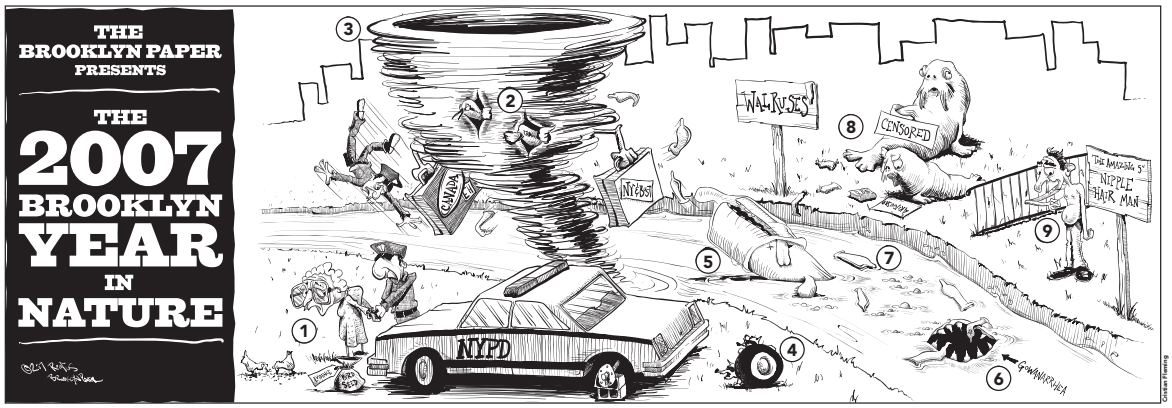
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THE YEAR 2007 IN REVIEW

ALL DRAWN OUT



From a tornado in Bay Ridge to a dead whale, Mother Nature fooled with Brooklyn for most of the year (heck, we had some snow in January!). There was even a bill by a city councilman to have old ladies arrested for feeding pigeons. And this wouldn't be a "Year in Nature" without at least a few mentions of that most unnatural of waterways, the Gowanus Canal. That's no body of water — that's a corpse. So now, with help from our own editorial cartoonist Cristian Fleming, here are the stories that showed some of Mom's wrath — and her good-natured side:

1. **Squawk!** City Councilman Simcha Felder — best known in these pages for his outstanding bladder — proposes a bill to criminalize pigeon-feeding. Consider the scenario: "Freeze, Granny — and put down the birdseed! Jimmy, cuff her." In the ensuing battle over the bill, a flock of pigeons is mass murdered on Eighth Street in Park Slope. Police have no leads.
2. **Space invader:** A Canadian bird called a Nuthatch invaded Brooklyn in August. Global warming was called the culprit for this atypical incursion of this Rocky Mountain specimen.
3. **It's a twister! It's a twister!** Auntie Em! Bay Ridge gets blown away by the first tornado in more than 100 years.
4. **Masked bandits:** Raccoons were running so wild in Bay Ridge that even legendary bandit-fighter Vince Gentile ran out of his supplies of Critter Ridder, a humane pesticide.
5. **Sludgie, we hardly knew ye:** The Gowanus Canal made international news — for once because of something natural! — when a 12-foot Minke whale wandered into the mouth of the fetid corpse of water and couldn't find his way out. The good news is that the Coast Guard fished out the body before Sludgie could sleep with the fishes.
6 & 7. **Sex on the beach?** The Gowanus Canal was diagnosed with gonorrhea. Oh, so *that* explains all the condoms floating on its surface!
8. **Oh, baby!** Ayveq, the famously masturbating walrus at the New York Aquarium, has his first child, a boy. He's a great dad — but he's still having fun in his own special way.
9. **Hairy situation:** A Williamsburg man grows the longest nipple hair ever. Believe us, it was not disgusting!

MARTY...

Continued from page 12

nalize those coming from the suburban areas. Any plan that puts the burden more on [city] residents … has to be adjusted.

Number two, if the issue is to curb pollution and congestion in Midtown, then it's baloney to toll our bridges. That would mean that the geniuses who put this together believe that everyone going over those bridges is going to the central business district, but that's bunk. … It's a penalty on Brooklyn motorists. And I feel the same way about Queens. … Imposing tolls on the bridges says to me that the plan will not be balanced on the whole city. If you're in Manhattan, you're not touched one bit by this proposal. … The people who are living in the suburban areas and the Bronx would not be touched at all. It's not a balanced plan.

GK: But it could be tolls on the East River and Harlem River bridges [to the Bronx].

MM: I still wouldn't be in favor of it, unless you ensure that the suburbanites pay even more. … But who are they going to get the money from? They'll get it from Brooklynites. And there is no assurance that that money will come back to Brooklyn … where there are areas without public transportation. And there are large areas of Queens without public transportation.

[Markowitz brought up Coney Island.]

MM: I want to make sure that the amusement area grows and is preserved — you can't mix that with residential. That's what makes Coney Island unique and urban; it's the only family amusement area. The [Six] Flags, the Dorney Parks, even Disney — it all began at Coney Island. …

But just like Atlantic Yards, there is contention. … Thank God, we have a society where they can have their voice heard.

GK: Indeed, in this case, there will be a ULURP [a thorough public review, unlike at Atlantic Yards].

MM: That's because [Coney Island] is city property. The Atlantic Yards … of course the statement by Dan Doctoroff [a reference to the deputy mayor's comment that Atlantic Yards should have gone through the ULURP process]. All I can say is the state decided that this was their project. Dan Doctoroff went along with that. The mayor endorsed it wholeheartedly. [Doctoroff] has the right to reflect, of course. Here it is at the end of 2007, and there are no shovels in the ground yet. It's very frustrating. Those who oppose it are delighted, but for those who think it'll be good for New York City, it's frustrating, but it has to go through the process.

GK: What's the status of your run for higher office? You've been coy. Are you going to run?

MM: I wouldn't say "coy."

GK: I didn't mean "coy" as a negative thing.

MM: I've never been indecisive about anything, pretty much, except whether I should eat that second bagel. … But this is one that I think about every day. … I have to make a decision on whether what I've done here in Brooklyn is something I could duplicate citywide. But I know one thing, Brooklyn has a story to tell. We can prove to the world that people of various ethnic and religious groups can live together in a community with mutual respect. That's our story.

I have a hunch that I know that it takes to run a mayoral campaign. … I know the wear and tear. I know the agita and I know the excitement. … I've only had a little experience as borough president, so it's five times more, plus all the additional attention and scrutiny and [having] The Brooklyn Paper bashing you in almost every issue — and other publications, too, that would be happy to get on the bandwagon because that's the way with journalism. They try to pick you up and knock you down and pick you up and knock you down. Some of it you bring on yourself and some of it you didn't do at all — at all! But you're open to any and all potshots when you're an elected official, real or make believe. And when you run for mayor, it gets worse, not better.

But I know that I have the intellect to be a great mayor … and hopefully one of the best the city's ever had. … I think there's a lot I would offer New York. I do. … I recognize that the train has moved from a stationary position and it is moving away from the station. I recognize that. But it will be done on my timetable. So stay tuned.

GK: You know, it's dangerous to jump on a moving train. The MTA tells us that.

MM: That's true. … But I think we have a lot to share with New York City what we're doing here in Brooklyn. … If I've accomplished making your life better, making you prouder that you live here in Brooklyn and putting a smile on your face, than I've accomplished what I set out to do. … and I think I could translate that to New York City. …

If I run for mayor and am chosen to be mayor, I will be a mix of a number of people who have been mayor of New York City.

GK: Who?

MM: I love LaGuardia, of course, and Ed Koch, of course. And I liked Dinkins very very much. And I absolutely adore Mike Bloomberg. If I could be a mix of those four — and at the same time add in my stuff, maybe it'll be what New York City wants. … But I wish there were no term limits. …

I hope I've made life better in Brooklyn. … But as mayor, I know that New York City would move ahead. My objective as mayor would be to keep it safe, keep it clean and keep it working.

GK: It's a good slogan: Safe, clean and working.

MM: So we'll see.



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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 19th day of December, 2007, bearing Index Number N501064/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Stephanie Janet Maratea. My present name is Stephanie Janet Cardenas, a/k/a Stephanie Janet Cardenas Pena Herrera. My present address is 125 86th Street., Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Guayaquil, Ecuador. My date of birth is August 28, 1986. BP51

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 19th day of December, 2007, bearing Index Number N501063/2007, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right to assume the name of Shoshana Tal. My present name is Jessica Mendelovici, a/k/a Jessica Tal. My present address is 723 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11213. My place of birth is Philadelphia, PA. My date of birth is December 23, 1980. BP51

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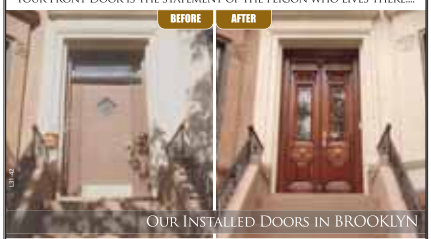
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